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Ohio's **amish** Country

Welcome to Ohio's Amish Country, home of the world's largest Amish/Mennonite settlement. This region, composed of Holmes, Wayne, Tuscarawas, Coshocton, Knox, Ashland, Richland and Stark Counties, offers a wonderful variety of attractions.

This publication is available to you free of charge to give you more information about the area. Our website, www.oacountry.com is chock full of information about the region.

The people of this region are eager to make your visit one you'll remember. The staffs at the visitor's bureaus are eager to help make your visit all you want it to be. Call them at:

Ashland	877-581-2345
Canton/Stark	800-533-4302
Holmes	330-674-3975
Knox	800-837-5282
Loudonville/Mehican	877-268-4422
Tuscarawas	800-527-3387
Wayne	800-362-6474
Coshocton	800-338-4724
Mansfield/Richland	800-642-8282
Hartsville	330-877-5500

You'll find a wealth of wholesome activities and plenty of memories waiting for you in this special world, Ohio's Amish Country.

For details about Ohio's Amish Country, check on-line at:

oacountry.com



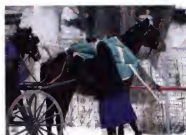
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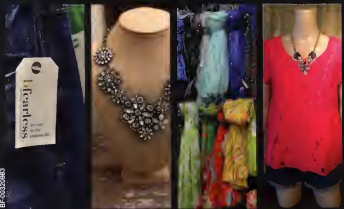


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When it comes to immersing yourself in Ohio's history and Amish culture, **Holmes, Wayne, Coshocton and Tuscarawas Counties** are rich in offerings. Here's why you should take a walk—on the gentler side.

Writing

AMISH COUNTRY

By Ken McEntee

The fresh country air and the sight of sparkling solar beams reflecting off crystal-like ice and snow make Ohio's Amish Country and surrounding regions a stunning destination for a winter getaway. Adding to the sparkling ornaments that nature provides as candy for our eyes is the electrical magic of Christmas lighting that adorns town churches and the quaint shops of Coshocton, Holmes, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties.

Beginning with the highly anticipated holiday season, this popular region, home to the nation's largest Amish community, offers an abundance of activities, events and sights throughout the winter season.

Here is a look at some attractions the region has to offer in the festive months ahead.

Holmes County

"This is not an area that is dependent upon perfect weather for people to have a fun time," assured Danara Wallace, marketing director for the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce. "Especially around the holiday season, this is a nice family-friendly place to visit. We have a lot of interesting indoor attractions, like museums, and a lot of fun ways for people to spend their days. There are places to visit, or it can also be fun to just come in for a weekend and cozy up in a cabin with the family."

One of the most popular holiday festivities in Holmes County is the seventh annual Christmas Cookie Tour of Inns, which will be held Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 13 and 14. The event takes visitors through a cookie-tasting tour of 12 festively decorated inns of Amish Country. This year's theme will be the 12 Days of Christmas.

The Victorian House Museum, in Millersburg, always dazzles during the holidays, Wallace insisted. The 28-room Queen Anne-style home serves as the Holmes County Historical Society's museum of Victoriana and Holmes County history.

"Victorian House offers something a little different," Wallace said. "Many people love to visit Millersburg for the Amish Country flavor, but here they also get a little bit of history—not to mention the spectacular decorations."

The Pomerene Hospital Auxiliary's annual Christmas Tree Festival has become an anticipated holiday happening during the past five years. The festival, which raises funds for the hospital, features more than 50 beautifully decorated Christmas trees, wreaths, centerpieces

and small furniture items—and all will be available for purchase. The event, which will take place at Hotel Millersburg, will be held Nov. 13-16.

For the sports fanatic, Hiland High School's annual Classic in the Country draws girls basketball teams from across Ohio to compete in a tournament over Martin Luther King weekend.

Coshocton County

Regardless of the temperature, the warmth of the Christmas season can be felt during Roscoe Village's weekly Candlelighting. The village tradition will be

This popular region offers an abundance of activities, events and sights throughout the winter season.

held on the first three Saturday evenings of December at 6 p.m., said Jan Meyers, director of the Coshocton County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"People gather around the main stage in the middle of the village to hear a holiday story read," Meyers explained. "Then, a huge Christmas tree is lit while a local singing group leads everybody in caroling."

The event culminates with the singing of Silent Night, as each participant lights his or her Christmas candle with a common candle that is passed from person to person.

Before and after the lighting cer-

emonies, Roscoe Village will host special holiday tours. Self-guided Leisure Tours will be available between noon and 5:30 p.m., while enchanted guided Candlelight tours will follow the ceremonies at 7 p.m.

"You will have the chance to learn about Christmas cards, toys, treats, visions of sugarplums, and letters to Santa," Meyers said. "Learn how these holiday traditions were practiced during the canal era."

The Coshocton Community Choir Christmas Festival Concert, to be held Sunday, Dec. 7, is an ideal way to ring in the holiday season. The 43rd annual concert, to be held at Coshocton High School, will feature more than 200 singers and musicians from central Ohio. Musical selections will span the centuries with classics from each era being performed.

The 15th annual live Nativity, featured Friday through Sunday, Dec. 12-14 at Coshocton Christian Tabernacle, is another Christmas tradition. Luminaries light the way as visitors drive through the live scenes depicting the birth of Christ and other well-known events of His life. The end of the Christmas season isn't the end of the fun in Coshocton, Meyers promised.

"During the middle of winter a lot of people are looking for something fun to do," she said. "The annual Chocolate Extravaganza, held around Valentine's Day, comes just in time. And this year is perfect because Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday."

The Extravaganza features local bakers and professional pastry chefs

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The Victorian House Museum, in Millersburg, always dazzles during the holidays.

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who create fine chocolate desserts for the Pomerene Center's chocolate fundraising event. Guests are treated to an assortment of cakes, tortes, cheesecakes, pies, candies and sweet treats. The same evening, historic Lake Park Pavilion will host a Big Band Dance.

"The pavilion was a popular stop for all the top big bands in the 1920s and the 1930s," Meyers said. "It's still being used for its intended purpose. By combining the Chocolate Extravaganza and the Big Band Dance, we're offering a very romantic Valentine's Day."

Tuscarawas County

The holidays are just around the corner in Tuscarawas County, and this year is going to be special, suggested Dee Grossman, of the Tuscarawas County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"Along with the Polar Express Train ride in Dennison, the J.E. Reeves Home and the Warther Museum in Dover offer special holiday events," Grossman said.

The Polar Express will depart from the Dennison Depot Thursdays through Sundays, from Dec. 11 to Dec. 21. The adventure begins on board a decorated train as storytellers read the Polar Express story aloud. As the train heads north toward the North Pole, festive elves will entertain with songs, games and activities. The highlight of the journey is the arrival at the North Pole to visit Santa.

Before or after the trip, visitors can enjoy the holiday decorations in the 1873 Depot, which is now a National Historic Landmark due to its important role during World War II.

Christmas is a special time at the J.E. Reeves Victorian Home and Carriage House Museum. During the holidays all 17 rooms of the Reeves Home are tastefully decorated in the spirit of the season. The Warther Museum is dedicated to Ernest "Mooney" Warther, the world's master carver.

If indoor museums are too confining, Grossman suggested a ghost tour in Zoar, or Santa's Workshop at the Norma Johnson Center in Dover.

The Tuscora Park amusement park was opened in 1907 by the Reeves family of Dover, who wanted to create a Coney island-type theme park. Each year the park offers a winter wonderland that includes ice sculptures and cookie making with Mrs. Claus.

Wayne County

Window-shopping becomes all the holiday rage when Window Wonderland kicks off the Christmas season in Zoar, said Marty Starkey, executive director of

the Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Wayne County tradition will be held Friday, Nov. 21, from 7-9:30 p.m., in downtown Wooster. The nostalgic evening transcends the historic Ohio town into Christmas scenes from yesteryear, beginning with the lighting of the Children's Christmas Tree in Public Square. The event will include a petting zoo, hot cocoa and Herky the Clown. Until the unveiling, every storefront along every streetscape is covered in secrecy.

Kids will be enthralled by the train rides featured by the Orrville Railroad Heritage Society. Between Saturday, Nov. 29, and Saturday, Dec. 6, the Orrville Union Depot will be open and decorated for the holidays. A feature event on those days will be Riding with Santa, which will include stories, songs and Santa himself. During the 40-mile round trip, Santa will move through the train to visit with each child and collect his or her Christmas list. Each child also will receive a gift bag. On-board entertainment will include carolers and local musicians.

"The Downtown Church Walking Tour, to be held Friday, Dec. 5, is a wonderful way to celebrate the season," Starkey said. "The churches all have entertainment and it's fun to see how they are all decorated."

"Wayne County has the kind of small-town feeling that Americans are drawn to," she said. "We have a lot of holiday activities, but even after the holidays are over people like to come here to visit our numerous shops and Wooster's booming dining district. There is plenty to do here to occupy a day, or even a weekend."

For more information about what awaits you in Ohio's Amish Country, be sure to contact these helpful visitor centers:

Coshocton Visitors Bureau

Jan Myers
740-622-4877
www.VisitCoshocton.com

Holmes County Chamber of Commerce

Danara Wallace
330-674-3975
www.HolmesCountyChamber.com

Tuscarawas County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Dee Grossman
330-602-2420
www.TravelTusc.com

Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Marty Starkey
330-264-1800
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or visit www.OACountry.com



The Polar Express will depart from the Dennison Depot Thursdays through Sundays, from Dec. 11 to Dec. 21.

Come have a blast in the past at Historic Millersburg

Warm up to a full schedule of events this winter in the village

By Laura Briedis

When the leaves fall off the trees and the temperatures start to plummet, things are just starting to heat up in Millersburg. With thriving small businesses, entertaining community events, and historic architecture punctuating its downtown district, Millersburg is truly a year-round destination that offers something for everyone.

Hundreds flocked to the village for the Amish Country Challenge in September, during which bike riders toured the scenic countryside trails of Holmes County. And in October, the Boo in the Burg attracted those looking for some spook the weekend before Halloween, as the Ohio Paranormal Society came to town and set up ghost tours through historic buildings, where haunting phenomena have been reported over the decades.

"Every year these fall events always attract many visitors to Millersburg," commented Judy Lamp, executive director of Historic Downtown Millersburg. "We are already planning these two events again in 2015, as both area residents and out-of-towners look forward to all of our annual events."

On the heels of these two fall happenings are upcoming holiday special events.

Christmas in the Village

The town's official kickoff to the holiday season, Christmas in the Village is set for Saturday, November 15. "All of the shops are decked out for the holidays and offer special sales," said Lamp. "The town goes all out on this day to create a festive spirit." New to this year is Ohio wine tastings hosted by local businesses to keep you warm and toasty on a cold winter's night.

On display at Hotel Millersburg are handmade wreaths and Christmas crafts that are for sale, with all proceeds going to hospice.

"This is the perfect event to get a jump-start on the holiday season," commented Lamp. "You can leisurely stroll down the street and shop for unique items without all the hustle and bustle of a shopping mall."

Holidays at the Mansion

The holiday season is also a special time of the year at The Victorian House in Millersburg. For six weeks, the Victorian House is aglow in



THE TOWN'S OFFICIAL KICKOFF TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON, CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE IS SET FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15.

all its grandeur. The open house to kick off the dazzling holiday décor showcase is Saturday, November 22, from 1 to 8 p.m., and it runs through Wednesday, December 31. The house is open for visitors seven days a week: Sunday through Thursday from 1 to 4 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 1 to 8 p.m. (closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day).

Visitors will step back in time as they tour the 6,000-square-foot mansion built with Queen Ann-style architecture. During holidays at the mansion, each of the 28 rooms on four floors are decorated with Christmas trees, ornaments and

elaborate table settings showcasing Victorian living at its finest.

Girls' Night Out

Attracting visitors from Cleveland to the north, Pittsburgh to the east and as far west as Indiana, Girls' Night Out provides a respite from the cold. Scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2015, the downtown businesses host "little sister businesses" to provide the ultimate shopping extravaganza.

"Our downtown stores will host other companies such as Longaberger and Silpada in their stores to give shoppers endless options," explained Lamp. "Some stores will host area salons to come in and give pampering spa treatments. Throw in food and refreshments and what's not for a girl to love?"

The Historic Downtown Millersburg organization gives all the ladies a card that they get punched at each business they visit, which is then entered into a raffle for a grand prize.

"This event provides a nice winter break for the ladies to come to town, stay overnight in one of our hotels, shop and dine," said Lamp. "Wintertime is truly delightful in Millersburg."

While many people visit Holmes County for these special events, Millersburg offers something every day in its eclectic mix of shops, restaurants, hotels and its own winery and brewery. In Historic Downtown Millersburg, there is always something to do, with lively events taking place throughout the year. •

For more information on Historic Downtown Millersburg, visit www.HistoricDowntownMillersburg.com or call 330-674-2412.

The popular Girls' Night Out draws visitors from as far as Cleveland and Pittsburgh.





It is just that simple...

Shop like the Amish do at Walnut Creek Cheese

By Mitch Allen

Set your GPS for 2641 State Route 39, Walnut Creek, Ohio, and you'll end up at Walnut Creek Cheese, the 50,000-square-foot, ultra-fresh food market where over 20,000 people shop each week. But don't let the name fool you. Sure, the store carries dozens of different types of cheeses, but you'll also find 75 varieties of homemade jams and jellies, 50 different fresh meats, plus pickles, flour, cake mixes, pie fillings, honey, beef jerky, breads, barbeque sauces, frozen foods and virtually every other delicious edible treasure known to the Amish. Many of the store's 120 employees can be found buzzing around the kitchen baking, canning, and frying. In fact, the fry pies, a local favorite, fly off the shelves at the rate of 3,000 per week.

Keeping it Simple

But the one thing you won't find at Walnut Creek Cheese is fancy packaging. The simple values of the store's frugal founder won't allow it.

"When you open the bright, colorful box of a national brand food product, what you find inside is a simple plastic bag," explains Mark Coblenz, who bought the company in 1977 when it was an abandoned one-man cheese route. "Instead, we skip the expensive box, and put our emphasis on the quality of what's inside that bag."

Mark buys top-quality products in

massive bulk quantities then divides them into smaller sizes his customers want, packaging them simply. The high volume of shoppers means that the inventory turns over quickly, guaranteeing that every item is ridiculously fresh.

The result is high-quality food items at low warehouse-style prices. It's an ingenious no-frills, low-waste business model that reflects the simplicity and frugality of the Amish and Mennonite cultures.

"Better than Disney World."

Walnut Creek Cheese is more than just a store; it's a highly experiential grocery adventure. The onsite test kitchen offers cooking classes that range from mastering basic knife skills to how to make the perfect



IN THE 200-SEAT MUD VALLEY CAFÉ, YOU CAN ENJOY LUNCH OR SAMPLE THEIR IMPOSSIBLY SMOOTH HOMEMADE FROZEN CUSTARD.

homemade fresh peach pie. In the 200-seat Mud Valley Café, you can enjoy lunch or sample their impossibly smooth homemade frozen custard. After lunch, head over to the 12,000 square foot kitchenware department, dubbed Butter Churn Kitchenwares, featuring every kitchen gadget or cookware one can imagine. There is so much going on that one customer was moved to declare, "This place is better than Disney World."

On Tuesday mornings from 8-10 a.m., Mark even gives away free coffee and donuts. "It's packed," Mark smiles. "Customers rearrange their schedules to be here on Tuesday mornings. It's an important social opportunity for many people in our community."



When Mark designed the facility, he intentionally chose to create an environment where customers could stop and talk. "It's a reunion philosophy," he explains. "When you shop here, you'll see people you'll know. It's a popular meeting place."

Company Values

This attitude of community and generosity is reflected in the company's set of values: "Respect, Stewardship and Growth" which Mark simplifies as "Ready, Set, Go."

"Respect is about treating people like we want to be treated," he says. "Even if we could raise our prices, we wouldn't do it because we don't want to pay higher prices ourselves."

Respect also means taking care of employees. The day I interviewed Mark, he was closing the store early to host an employee picnic.

"Stewardship means understanding that every action we take has to result in someone paying for it," Mark continues. "So if we can cut out unnecessary labor, packaging or marketing, we can deliver to people a better, lower-priced product."

Growth, Mark concludes, refers to both personal growth for his employees and organizational growth. "This keeps us open to new and exciting opportunities," he insists.

Walnut Creek Cheese also wholesales much of its product line to stores all over the Midwest, so if you don't see the brand on the shelves where you shop, ask your local grocer to carry it.

It's that simple. •



PLAN YOUR DAY

With so much to do, where do you start first? It is easy to "Plan your Day" in Amish Country as the options are endless. Whoever you are, wherever you're from, every day in Amish Country can be activity packed from dawn until dusk. So there's no time like the present to take advantage of the hidden gems throughout Amish Country.

Amish Country offers great historical and natural sites that can help you appreciate the area even more than you already do.

Family entertainment with live music, hilarious actors, magicians and "clean" family fun is guaranteed to entertain. The critically-acclaimed **Amish Country Theater** is Amish Country's original variety show with a brand new show for 2013.

Ashland is proud to invite you on a walking tour of **Center Street Historical District**. There, you'll find the Ashland County Historical Society located on a campus with three historical houses. Learn about the first citizens of Ashland County and see the structures they built. Then stop by the Hayesville Opera House, rich with art and culture.

You'll be impressed in Canton where the **Pro-Football Hall of Fame** and **First Ladies Museum** are only the beginning of local history. You'll also want to visit the **Canton Classic Car Museum** featuring over 45 antique and collectible cars, including a 1937 fully bullet proof Canton Police Car. Don't forget to also tour **Haines House**, the home of Sarah Haines and an official Underground Railroad site. Also awaiting the presidential historians are the **Hoover Presidential Center** and the **McKinley Presidential Library & Museum**.

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Historic
Roscoe Village



Amish Country Theater



Wendell August



Ohio Light Opera

Don't miss a thing!

Whether it's a trip to an authentic Amish farm or one with animals from Africa, be sure to plan ahead to experience the many varying attractions Amish Country has to offer. History, culture and of course, great shopping, can all be found where it's about life -- plain and simple!

See actual replicas of canal era life in **Historic Roscoe Village**, and then take the living history tour and step back into time. Make sure you visit the 1.5 mile restored section of the **Ohio-Erie Canal** built from 1825-1832 and travel at the high speed of three miles per hour by a horse-drawn canal boat, known as the Monticello III.

In addition to the canal town, the **Coshocton County CVB** works hard to showcase the many happenings taking place in the county. With entertainment, dining, lodging and

known as America's oldest authentic 19th century theater, is an un-restored piece of local history.

Perhaps the most historic element of **Mohican Country** is a visit to **Cleo Redd Fisher Museum** where much of Loudonville's history is displayed. Featured exhibits include the works of Charles F. Kettering and Hugo Young, Loudonville natives who reached national acclaim as inventors and industrialists. Just south of town, visitors are invited to tour **Wolf Creek/Pine Run Grist Mill** for a glimpse into the work of early pioneers.

At the historical **Ohio State**

did more than 200 years ago. Another great place to see history is Bolivar's **Fort Laurens**, Ohio's only Revolutionary War fort built in 1778. **Auman Museum of Radio & Television** in Dover also provides a great place to enjoy the sights and sounds of days past, as is the acclaimed outdoor drama, **"Trumpet in the Land"** where you can actually watch history unfold in real life in New Philadelphia.

Also in Dover, **The Toland-Herzig Famous Endings Museum** collection is the world's largest privately-owned collection of funeral-related memorabilia from the

and enjoy the quaint village scenery.

The **German Culture Museum** is a hidden gem in Walnut Creek. With

One historic element of Mohican Country is a visit to Cleo Redd Fisher Museum where much of Loudonville's history is displayed.

displays relating to the Anabaptists, an old Martin Luther Bible, tools and more, the museum is brimming with local history.

In nearby Berlin, **Wendell August** is a gift shop filled with the famous Wendell August metalware. With a train winding its way overhead, the large showroom has unique gifts ranging from Christmas ornaments to jewelry. The ornately crafted items showcase intricate metalwork.

The **Ohio Light Opera and Historic Lincoln Highway** are just two local prizes in Wooster. You can also visit the nationally acclaimed **Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center**, which documents the history of the Kidron-area Mennonite Anabaptists. Tours are now offered by the **Smithville Community Historical Society** and include **Mishler Mill** from the 1880s, where weavers offer demonstrations; the **Pioneer Log Cabin** from the 1830s; the two-story **Sheller House**, a log cabin from the mid-19th century including a carriage barn, antique farm and agricultural implements; and a blacksmith shop.

Promoting the treasures of Wayne County from the wildlife areas to the modern attractions like arboretum to the wineries, **Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau** showcases the county's biggest and smallest attractions.

To learn more about Ohio's Amish Country, log on to **Ohio'sAmishCountry.com** or visit these websites: www.visitashlandohio.com; www.visitcantontark.com; www.visitcoshocton.com; www.visitknoxohio.com; www.mohicancountry.org; www.mansfieldtourism.com; www.waynecountyvcb.org; www.visitamishcountry.com; www.travelus.com.



VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a special time at Dover's J.E. Reeves Victorian Home and Carriage House Museum. During the holidays all 17 rooms of the Reeves Home are tastefully decorated.

history. Coshocton County definitely has something for everyone.

Brick streets, historic homes and stunning college campuses make Mt. Vernon unique, charming and well worth the drive. Visit the downtown area and view the **Civil War Monument**, an important link to our past history. Also available for the history buff are two very special museums, the **Knox County Agricultural Museum**, a one-of-a-kind display with a large collection of items from the 1800s and 1900s. **Woodward Opera House**,

Reformatory you'll have the chance to see many relics from Ohio's past and experience an eerie sort of history. Then slip into the **Historic Carrousel District** to see old structures and current shops. Afterward, you can take a drive back in time with the **Shawshank Redemption Drive-It-Yourself Trail**, based on the short story "Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption" by Stephen King.

History comes alive at **Schoenbrunn Village**, a reconstructed Moravian mission that appears as it

"famous endings" of Hollywood stars, politicians, world leaders, athletes, pop culture icons and other historical figures. Located at the Toland-Herzig Funeral Home & Crematory, the extensive display has been honored by Ripley's Believe It or Not.

Zoar Village was founded in 1817 by a group of 200 German Separatists seeking escape from religious persecution in their homeland. These Separatists thrived as a unique Society for more than 80 years, making Zoar Village one of the most successful communal settlements in American history. Today, Zoar Village is made up of approximately 75 families living in homes built from 1817 to the present. Tour the museums, see early American architecture



Celebrate the season in a way only experienced at Historic Roscoe Village

Christmas time accentuates the essence of a different era

By Patricia Nugent

Much like Charlie Brown, the Whos of Whoville and George Bailey, aren't we all looking to connect with the true spirit of Christmas?

It's easily found at the historic shops of Roscoe Village.

From the Christmas Candlelightings, where people enjoy singing together gathered 'round a decorated tree, to a flurry of hands-on crafts and heartwarming Christmas tours, the meaning of the season shines brightly.

And with family-friendly fun, shops open seven days a week, dining and lodging, the festive historic village is ready for visitors.

Shops and restaurants unveil a treasure trove of antiques, vintage toys, collectibles and gourmet foods that are perfect for gifting.

"The Candlelighting is something you have to experience to appreciate fully," said Debbie McDonald, who is director of marketing for Roscoe Village. "The storytellers light the people's candles and the group sings 'Silent Night,' getting louder and louder until all candles are lit. Then the glorious 35-foot tree lights up."

The Christmas Candlelightings take place at the main stage on Saturdays, Dec. 6, 13 and 20, with the 45-minute ceremony starting at 6 p.m. The event is free of charge.

Scan here to experience an Historic Roscoe Village Christmas!



Taking in Yuletide Tours

In November and December, the village offers a Christmas tour to showcase the evolution of old-fashioned traditions, from making Christmas cards to vintage toys. People can wander amidst all the spectacularly decorated shops.



PEOPLE ENJOY AN EVENING MEAL IN THE HOME OF ONE OF ROSCOE'S PAST LEADING CITIZENS, DR. MARO JOHNSON.

The knowledgeable guides tell tales of Christmases past, and report about what the season was like in the 1800s, especially touching on the history and evolution of Santa.

There is an array of make-and-take crafts from the era, such as creating ornaments by tin punching or candle dipping, or painting a wooden toy.

"In the evening, the old-fashioned Lamp-light Tours begin at 7 p.m. Guests stroll around the village experiencing the history through the stories told by actors in the living history

buildings," said McDonald. "You don't need reservations for the daytime tours, but you do for the evening tours."

The Doctor is In

In January, February, March and April, Roscoe Village offers a unique experience called "Dinner at the Doctor's House."

People enjoy an evening meal in the home of one of Roscoe's past leading citizens, Dr. Maro Johnson, and are served by interpreters dressed in historically appropriate attire who share stories of dining etiquette or cooking practices along with other funny tales.

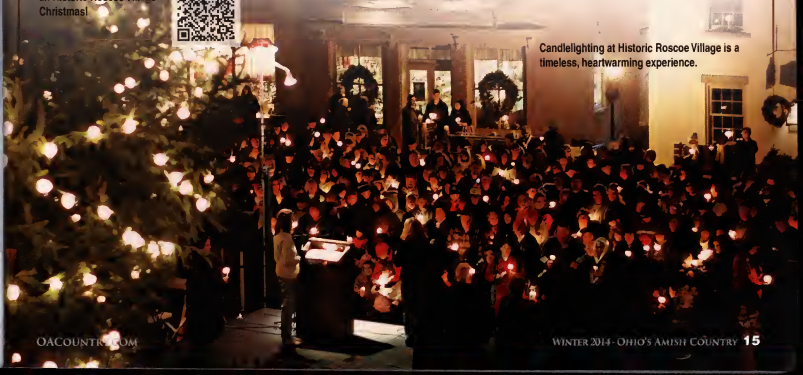
"Last year was the first year we offered this fascinating program and it sold out," said McDonald. "It's the last Friday of the month and starts at 6:30 p.m. for parties of four to eight."

For those who wish to make a weekend or overnight visit to Roscoe Village, there is a variety of lodging options from which to choose, including the Coshocton Village Inn and Suites, Roscoe Hillside Cabins, as well as several bed and breakfasts, all within easy walking distance of downtown.

So this Christmas, why not discover the true miracles of the season awaiting you at Roscoe Village. With every tour and open shop door, you can almost hear little ZuZu from "It's a Wonderful Life" explaining to her father, "every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings." •

The Famous Shops of Roscoe Village — with store front parking, eclectic shops that line the street and casual dining, perfect for that perfect holiday shopping experience. For more information about the shops or to book tours, contact 800-877-1830, or visit www.RoscoeVillage.com.

Candlelighting at Historic Roscoe Village is a timeless, heartwarming experience.



Bed & Breakfast

Inns and lodging favorites in Amish Country



Blessings Homestead

5174 Township Road 359 (Somerset Road), Berlin
330-204-2880 • www.blessingshomestead.com

Close to area shopping and attractions, Blessings Homestead is located within walking distance from downtown Berlin. The lodge offers a relaxing atmosphere perfect for large gatherings, such as retreats, anniversaries and just a getaway. Guests can end the day watching the sunset or begin each day watching the day unfold, while sitting in Amish crafted rockers on the 100-foot long porch. Delicious homemade cookies, full kitchen amenities and TV/DVD/VCR and cable add to every visit.

Cricket Hill Cabins

5631 Township Road 351, Millersburg
330-674-1892 • www.crickethillcabins.com

Beautiful, secluded log cabins nestled in the woods 3.5 miles west of Berlin. These cabins offer the ultimate, peaceful getaway with all the luxurious amenities you could want, including a queen bed in the loft, kitchen, fireplace, Jacuzzi, fire-ring, gas grill and a hot tub on the deck.

For more information for where to stay in Amish Country, visit us online at



oacountry.com

Slow down, relaxation is just a click away!
OHIO'S AMISH COUNTRY



The Grapevine House B&B

2140 Main Street, Winesburg
888-901-8411 • www.grapevinehouse.com

Built in 1834, one night in The Grapevine House takes guests back in time while they enjoy a relaxing stay in Amish Country. Not only is the original house open for visitors, but also Erma's House next door and the newest addition, The Barn, with its two bedrooms, full kitchen, private bath, loft and garage. Enjoy long-ago lodging with private baths and sitting rooms, but with modern amenities such as central air, WiFi and DirecTV.



Graystone Cottages

5572 N. Market Street, Berlin
877-231-2912 • www.graystone-cottages.com

Graystone Cottages is located in a quiet area, just a half block from the square in Berlin, yet close to area attractions. Providing guests with a cozy atmosphere and the luxury of a private cottage, guests can cuddle up by the fireplace, take a luxurious Jacuzzi bath or sit on the front porch to listen to the clip clop of horses and buggies. Wake up refreshed and begin your day with a continental breakfast, including Amish made cinnamon rolls.



Holmes With A View

3672 Township Road 154, Millersburg
877-831-2736 • www.holmeswithaview.com

These unique circular homes offer an extraordinary view over the rolling hills of the surrounding Charm Valley farmland, where cows and horses can be seen grazing. Most suites are equipped with a full kitchen, gas fireplace, entertainment center and whirlpool tub. Of the six suites available, two have two bedrooms and two baths, and one offers the option of an outdoor hot tub. The innkeepers strive to personalize every stay and will consider all special requests. Secluded, yet only a short trip from area attractions.



RELAX & ENJOY

Discover the many great B&Bs in the area and check in to begin your relaxing excursion to Ohio's Amish Country

Enjoy the stunning beauty of Ohio's Amish countryside

Carlisle Country Inn joins the ranks of Dutchman Hospitality

By Beth Newcomb

The stunning beauty of Ohio's Amish Country is easily enjoyed throughout the summer months. But spring, fall and winter, said Amy DeHass, the innkeeper at The Carlisle Country Inn Berlin, bring their own majestic glory.

"We provide a perfect, peaceful location in which to stay while enjoying everything this area has to offer. And the wraparound porch of our adorable inn is particularly ideal for taking in the beauty of the countryside," DeHass remarked.

The quaint bed and breakfast has been in existence for several years but only recently joined the Dutchman Hospitality family of properties. "When the inn became available for sale, we knew it was a perfect addition to our offerings," DeHass said. "Its charm and intimate appeal make it ideal for weekend getaways, weddings and corporate retreats."

The Carlisle Country Inn Berlin features seven stay-over rooms (two queen and five king), each with its own on-suite bathroom. The various configurations include a queen suite with separate bedroom, sofa bed and full kitchen; and king rooms with Jacuzzi tubs and fireplaces. While the bulk of the rooms are geared to accommodate a two-person stay, the queen suite's sofa bed allows for four guests in total. Children are welcome.

All rooms have TVs, coffeemakers, free Wi-Fi, and DVD players. A selection of movies for guests to enjoy free of charge is also available. In the evening, fresh-baked cookies and popcorn are served. Each room is decorated in a particular style, and all have been designed to feel like home.

Breakfast is included and is served at Berlin Farmstead Restaurant every day but Sunday, which is when DeHass whips up a cozy country meal in the inn's kitchen.

Situated on an expansive two-acre lot, the inn also boasts a sitting room with a fireplace and TV, and the enormous wraparound porch for relaxing. Six of the rooms have direct access to the outdoor seating area. "We've been planting lots of flowers and have added new landscaping for our guests to enjoy," DeHass smiled.



THE INN IS AN IDEAL VENUE FOR SMALLER WEDDINGS AND FOR BRIDAL PARTIES THAT WANT TO STAY TOGETHER IN ONE LOCATION.

Guest service is at the forefront of everything DeHass does and she takes extra care to ensure that every visitor feels warmly welcomed. "I live on site so I'm available 24/7 to cater to our guests' every need," she said. "I clean, do the windows, wash the linens and I treat everyone who visits like a member of the family. After 18 years in the hospitality industry, I know what people expect when they visit and make it a point to go above and beyond."

DeHass noted that the inn is an ideal venue for smaller weddings and for bridal parties that want to stay together in one location. "We've already booked a number of weddings," she added. "We'll give the wedding party full access to our kitchen. Brides and grooms can have their rehearsal dinners right here in the dining room, or get married on the property and then enjoy a cozy reception on our beautiful grounds."

For businesses that want to add that little something extra to a holiday happening, The Carlisle Country Inn Berlin is an ideal choice. Enjoy an appetizer reception in the sitting room, followed by a dinner feast in the dining room, and add an overnight stay for those who wish to linger. The same idea applies to families hailing from different parts of the country that are looking for a central location to call home for the night.

Whatever your reason for visiting, DeHass promises that your stay will be one to warmly remember. ♦

The Carlisle Country Inn Berlin is located at 5676 Township Road 362, in Berlin. To book your stay, call the Carlisle Inn's central reservation desk, at 330-893-3636. To learn more, visit the website at www.CarlisleInns.com.

Situated on an expansive two-acre lot, the inn also boasts a sitting room with a fireplace and TV, and the enormous wraparound porch for relaxing.



Cookie Tour of Inns and 12 Days of Christmas

By Leah Brown

The annual Amish Country Lodging Council's Christmas Cookie Tour of Inns has always had a fanciful theme that is as beautiful as it is delectable, according to Holmes County Tourism Bureau marketing coordinator Bonnie Coblentz. In years past the inns have decked themselves with gingerbread houses or created white and dark chocolate masterpieces. But this year, Bonnie Coblentz said, they will bring the 12 days of Christmas to life.

Tickets for the event, which takes place Dec. 13-14 from 12:30-6 p.m. both days, will go on sale Nov. 1, and Bonnie Coblentz said they would sell out fast. "Last year they sold out in a week," she said.

The self-paced, self-guided tour offers a chance to sample 12 different signature cookies and other special treats, and tour the inns of Holmes County. Not only will you get to try the cookies, you will be able to collect the recipes to try for yourself at a later date. Each of the 12 inns will be assigned a different day to base their decorations from, and then let loose to decorate however they choose. "The inns go all

out," Bonnie Coblentz said. "Every year I am shocked when I walk in to the inns. It's become a bit of a competition."

In years past the decorations have had a slightly more cohesive theme, according to Bonnie Coblentz. So to help bring the theme even more to the forefront, Loretta Coblentz, another



This popular event provides opportunities to tour some of the premier lodging establishments in the region.

member of the Bureau, will make a quilt based on the popular tune as well. "It will be something like the quilt barn trail," Bonnie Coblentz said. "Each square will be enlarged on a poster and hung up outside."

Bonnie Coblentz said that each quilt square poster will be hung the entire month of December. So if one tour isn't enough, you can visit the inns multiple times to see the quilt squares.

Plus, the entire finished quilt will be displayed at one of the inns and Loretta Coblentz will be present to answer any questions about the quilt, or offer advice for those who might want to make their own.

Each year, proceeds from the event are given to a local charity. Since 2008 the Cookie Tour of Inns has donated \$75,000. This year's recipients are LifeCare Hospice serving Holmes County and the Holmes County Higher Education Foundation. Bonnie Coblentz said this year alone, the Bureau hopes the tour will raise \$30,000.

"We just have incredible innkeepers that get into this every year," she said. "They go above and beyond. The credit goes to those guys."

This year the tour includes the Berlin Grande Hotel, Berlin Resort, Carlisle Inn Sugarcreek, Carlisle Inn Walnut Creek, Garver House B&B, Guggsberg Swiss Inn, Inn at Amish Door, Memory Lane Cabin, Ramada Limited, Sojourner's Lodge, Wallhouse Hotel and Zinck's Inn. •

For more information about the tour, call 330-674-3975 or visit www.christmascookieitour.com.

Experience scents and sounds of the season at the Christmas Cookie Tour of Inns



HIT THE HAY

Get ready to "hit the hay" in Ohio's Amish Country. Offering a wonderful combination of quaint bed & breakfasts, convenient hotels and classy inns, whatever your style, there is a place waiting for you. The choice is up to you!

Bed & Breakfasts

Experience the quiet beauty and serenity of the countryside at **Charm Country View Inn**. This 15-guest room inn is furnished and decorated in different styles of locally made solid oak furniture and handmade quilts. Located near Charm, breakfast may well be the most memorable part of your stay. Wake up to a delicious homemade full country breakfast, served just like mom cooked it.

Campgrounds

A combination of convenience, great rates and amenities of this centralized **Berlin RV Park** is a camper's delight. Situated off a popular state route, the campground has easy access for big rigs.

With a canoe livery on Lake Fork, **Camp Toodik Family Campgrounds**,

Cabins & Canoeing makes canoeing and kayaking part of your stay. The 93-acre park includes outdoor options such as swimming, fishing, miniature golf and more at this Mohican area family fun campground.

Evergreen Park RV Resort Ltd. is the new premier RV park in Amish Country. The park has 87 landscaped, paved sites, pull throughs and backing. Lodging includes cabins and tent sites. Upon entering you'll be greeted by the beautiful log office and pavilion. Amenities include full service Internet and cable, exercise room, indoor pool and hot tub.

Inns & Hotels

The **Berlin Grande Hotel** boasts four floors, housing 79 guest rooms, all furnished with Amish-made furniture.

continued on page 20



Charm Countryview Inn



Comfort Inn Dover



Dutch Host Inn

Easy does it

Ohio's Amish Country offers a wide variety of lodging opportunities for guests to the area. Relax in the pool or by a roaring fire, take a walk through Berlin or along a country road. For more information on lodging, see us online at

oacountry.com



Carlisle Inn
Sugar Creek

HAY from page 19

Enjoy some peace and quiet in the courtyard, or a dip in the indoor pool followed by a soak in a relaxing hot tub, all just steps away from downtown Berlin.

Berlin Resort's suites and rooms are available in a range of styles to accommodate adult visitors, families or business travelers in style.

Berlin Village Inn welcomes travelers from the west into Berlin. The inn puts you in the heart of Amish Country's most popular town. Spend the night in one of its modern, yet simple 22 rooms. Amenities include phones, cable TV and air conditioning. It's a quick trek up to all of the shops in downtown Berlin.

Dedicated to providing an experience that celebrates the traditional foods, simple comforts and rural charm of Ohio's Amish and Mennonite communities, the **Carlisle Inn Sugar Creek** and **Carlisle Inn Walnut Creek** give locals a warm, inviting place to meet and enjoy friends and family.



RESORT TO RELAX

The Berlin Resort offers an atmosphere that is perfect for guests to relax and unwind.

For out-of-town guests, it is a destination – a charming getaway – offering peace, comfort and genuine hospitality.

For romantic couples, **Donna's Premier Lodging** offers Jacuzzis and chocolate-covered strawberries within walking distance of downtown Berlin.

Sugar Creek's **Dutch Host Inn** boasts old-fashioned quality, hand crafted solid oak furniture, and all the hospitality of the Amish community and culture. Everything visitors expect when they visit the area will come together perfectly in one of the

33 rooms.


With 21 rooms overlooking the Walnut Creek Valley, **The Inn at Walnut Creek's** balconies and decks allow ample opportunity to sit, relax and enjoy the panoramic surroundings. The inn nestled in the heart of Walnut Creek, offers single rooms and efficiency suites, all furnished with locally made Shaker-style furniture.

Opened last summer, the **Wallhouse Hotel** is located in Walnut Creek and features eclectic furnishings with a big city feeling but the peaceful atmo-

sphere of Amish Country.

Near I-77 and many of the area's top attractions, **Comfort Inn/Country Inn of Dover** has a wealth of amenities. Refresh yourself in the inviting guest rooms, all of which feature refrigerators along with expanded cable television channels, free wireless high-speed Internet access, coffee makers and hair dryers. After a wake-up swim in the indoor pool, stoke up for the day with a hot breakfast featuring eggs, meat, yogurt, fresh fruit, cereal and more, including your choice of hot waffle flavors.

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The "Little Gem" of Amish Country

Wendell August is the place to visit if you are planning your holiday table this season

By Beth Newcomb

With a reputation for being the "little gem" of Amish Country still firmly in place, Wendell August is ushering in its 20th holiday season with a bounty of beautiful holiday treasures and fall/winter designs.

"Now is the time when people are starting to plan their holiday tables," said Karen Anderson, regional retail sales manager for the multi-state company. "That's where Wendell August continues to shine."

The 91-year-old company is known primarily for its finely crafted gift and home accessories, including serving trays, bowls,

accent dishes, baby books, banks, and picture frames created from precious metals like aluminum, bronze, copper and stainless steel. Other sought-after items are the annual holiday plates and ornaments.

"We have an extensive selection of gorgeous items to dress up the family meal," Anderson suggested. "And these pieces aren't just limited to the holidays.

THE POPULARITY OF THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT AND HOLIDAY PLATE CONTINUES TO GLOW AS BRIGHTLY AS THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

They're a wonderful way to make every day special, but they add an extra nice touch to the holiday table."



To serve as the window dressing for your next meal, Wendell August produces snack trays, charger plates, salad bowl sets, cheese and cracker servers, chip and dip bowls, and bread trays. Any of these items also make ideal wedding gifts. "A lot of people give a Wendell August piece at the wedding, then follow up each year on the couple's anniversary with another matching piece," she said. "These pieces are all made the way they have been since our inception, individually, and by hand. They are artisan quality items that deserve a prominent place in every home."

In addition to dressing up your holiday table, Wendell August pieces are multi-functional, whether a wine charm as a napkin ring to spice up a romantic dinner for two, or a serving tray in the bathroom to hold fingertip towels for guests.

With holiday visiting as prevalent as holiday gifting, Anderson suggests Wendell August's wine bottle toppers and wine charms as the perfect gifts for a host, hostess, or anyone else on your list.

The wine charms (from \$10-\$18) are designed with specific vintages designated on the labels, and the wine toppers (\$25) are finely crafted in pewter. The alphabet line of wine toppers is a particularly popular gift item as it includes all 26 letters in pewter and cut crystal.

The popularity of the annual Christmas ornament and holiday plate continues to glow as brightly as the Star of Bethlehem. Available now is the "Oh Holy Night" 2014 Christmas ornament, offered in bronze and aluminum. "This ornament depicts the nativity and showcases the highly detailed craftsmanship of our master engravers," Anderson said. "The year is engraved on the back, and it's a beautiful way to be reminded of this most special of nights."

The holiday plate, available in pewter and bronze, commemorates the life of St. Nicholas. "His memory is artistically brought to life in this classic depiction," Anderson described.

But a visit to the Wendell August store is about so much more than shopping; it's also about the experience.

St. Nicholas
Holiday Plates



"We have the world's largest Amish buggy. Guests enjoy taking pictures in front of the buggy. Some even use the photos for their Christmas cards," Anderson said. "And our shop is designed to resemble a charming country barn. It's very warm and welcoming. Guests are invited to sit on our enormous wraparound porch and enjoy a picnic lunch while taking in the beauty of the countryside. We also have a museum on site, which depicts the history of the company, along with a selection of Wendell August antiques. These are, of course, very limited and highly prized treasures."

An in-house theater plays a video that details Wendell August's transition from a small shop to an American staple, and a mini workshop is set up so that visitors can get a true feel for how the handcrafted pieces are made.

"Our works of art are enjoyed by people the world over, and our store is an ample 13,000 square feet," Anderson noted. "Our staff is knowledgeable and eager to assist our guests in finding the keepsakes they'll treasure for generations to come." •

To plan your visit to Wendell August, you can visit the website at www.WendellAugust.com. The store is located at 7007 CR 672, in Berlin. Hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Winter hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. after Christmas. The phone number is 330-893-3713.



Dogwood



Celebrate



Evergreen

To serve as the window dressing for your next meal, Wendell August produces snack trays, charger plates, salad bowl sets, cheese and cracker servers, chip and dip bowls, and bread trays.



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GRAB A TRAY

When it comes to eating in Amish Country, grab a tray because the choices are endless. With the aroma of mouth-watering roast beef, fall-off-the-bone braasted chicken and homemade noodles, area restaurants promise you a true taste of what's cookin' in Amish Country. And there's no better way to top off a delicious homestyle meal than with some of the world's best pastries. Whether it is a fresh from the oven slice of pie, cinnamon roll with oozing icing or a warm chocolate chip cookie, it is waiting for you at the area's bakeries. If you don't know what a fry pie is, you're in for a special treat. But don't worry, we've taken all the calories out. With many options waiting for you, below are a few of the most popular must-stop eateries, bakeries and markets around Amish Country.

Built to resemble an oversized Amish home, the **Amish Door Restaurant and Village** offers a relaxing dining experience where you can enjoy everything from hearty homestyle breakfasts to authentic Amish style meals. The Wilmot restaurant was selected by USA Today as one of the best meals of 2006.

As the oldest continuously operating restaurant in Berlin, **Boyd & Wurthmann** has been a favorite among locals since 1938. Along with more fresh pies available daily than you can imagine, their homemade meals are sure to satisfy even the pickiest of diners. No reservations here. Just occupy a

booth and savor the experience.

Chalet in the Valley Restaurant, nestled between Charm and Berlin, serves traditional Swiss cuisine, and Amish favorites fill the menu. With recipes that have become family favorites for generations, this restaurant prides itself in offering the very best meals, whether ordering off the menu or enjoying the variety of choices on the salad bar and dinner bar during Sunday hours.

Dedicated to providing an experience that celebrates the traditional foods, simple comforts and rural charm of Ohio's Amish and Mennonite communities.

continued on page 26



Miller's Bakery



Troyer's Country Market



Dutch Valley Restaurant

The taste of Amish Country

The down home goodness of Amish Country comes through in its classic meals served at area restaurants. Whether a steaming hot breakfast or a family style meal, you shouldn't go away hungry.

TRAY from page 25

Dutchman Hospitality's three restaurants, **Dutch Valley Restaurant** in Sugarcreek, **Der Dutchman Restaurant** in Walnut Creek and **Berlin Farmstead Restaurant**, offer a delicious way to jump-start or finish off a perfect day of traveling. The trio of spacious eateries are capable of hosting banquets or bus groups. Diners enjoy delicious home cooked meals with the option of adding a salad bar that has become a local favorite.

created in its kitchens.

There's always something fresh coming out of the **Dutch Valley Bakery** in Sugarcreek and **Der Dutchman Bakery** in Walnut Creek. Whether it's just-baked whoopie pies, homemade fruit preserves or apple fritters, there are dozens of delicious sweets to tempt your taste buds.

Known for their mouth-watering baked goods and homegrown vegetables, **Hersherberger's Farm and Bakery** is a favorite spot for kids of all ages. The fresh baked goodies,

At **Kauffman Country Bakery**, more than 100 pies are made fresh daily, alongside breads, cookies, jams and jellies. This Bunker Hill sweet shop offers some of the best authentic Amish Country treats, as well as being open on Sundays.

Near the little town of Charm, **Miller's Bakery** is a perfect place for "De good old fashioned bakin'." Offering fresh breads, donuts, fry pies, bulk foods and much more, the bakery is open year around.

If your passion is chocolate, **Coblentz Chocolate** is a must-stop. The area's finest chocolates are made daily in the candy store located in a Victorian house in Walnut Creek and are also available at the newly opened Berlin shop. The kitchen viewing area provides visitors with a chance to see chocolate being made and even poured on pretzels. There are over 300 varieties of yummy sweets available for purchase.

So now that you've tasted all that Amish Country has to offer, why not take some home with you? There are plenty of markets sprinkled throughout the countryside for you to explore and get to shop where the locals do.

At **Dutch Valley Market** near

Sugarcreek, custom-cut, all natural, high quality meats, jewel-like jars of crisp pickles, vegetable relishes and traditional favorites, such as **Der Dutchman Apple Butter** and **Peanut Butter Spread** are sold.

At Kauffman Country Bakery, over 100 pies are made fresh daily.

Another great place to find a mouth-watering cut of beef is **Sugar Valley Meats**. By using the traditional craft of meat cutting and smoking, this full-service meat market gives its products a unique flavor found only in Amish Country.

The home of Amish Wedding Foods, **Troyer's Country Market** is located between Walnut Creek and Berlin. From domestic and imported cheeses, specialty and deli meats and farm fresh vegetables and produce, the market is packed with local favorites. Known for its Amish Wedding Foods, the market has grown into a must-stop for locals and tourists who want to find authentic Amish foods.



Sugar Valley Meats produces the best meats that Amish Country has to offer.

While Ohio's Amish Country is known for its delicious home-style meals, it is no secret that some of the best baked goods are

pony rides and a petting zoo allow guests the opportunity to get to know the animals at the farm, which is situated between Charm and Berlin.



The Perfect Getaway

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The Amish Country Theater presents...

Christmas In The Country

Experience the narrative and rich history of many celebrated Christmas carols while learning about Amish treasured traditions.

Christmas In The Country

There's something special about celebrating the holiday season in the gorgeous setting of Ohio's Amish Country. It's a magical time of year, and one of the highlights is the Amish Country Theater's production, "Christmas In The Country," an elegant, two-hour special event featuring the music of Nashville recording artist and local celebrity John Schmid. With an authentic Amish upbringing, Schmid's music reveals a strong resemblance to Johnny

Cash and will take you on a journey from the origin of Amish Christmas traditions to the music we love and enjoy today, with crowd favorites like Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer performed in Pennsylvania Dutch.

Joining Schmid will be Sugarcreek Bluegrass, performing down-home renditions of popular Christmas songs. Tying the evening together like a bright red ribbon will be ventriloquist Ken Groves and hilarious stage actor "Lynyrd" from the Amish Country Theater serving as the event's emcees. If you've ever seen a show at the Amish Country Theater, you know this dynamic duo will have you rolling with laughter!

A Local Favorite

Christmas In The Country was an overwhelming hit in 2013 with 5 sold out performances comprised of local residents and visitors from out of town. Jeff Conna, co-owner of the Amish Country Theater says, "We created this event for our com-

munity in an effort to provide an authentic Christmas experience the entire family could enjoy, and are thrilled that our out-of-town friends also choose to join us and enjoy the event." The 2013 performances were quickly sold out indicating the producers at the Amish Country Theater had put together a winning show. After the success of 2013, the producers decided to add two additional show times, for a total of seven Christmas shows drawing visitors from near and far in 2014.

The Amish Country Theater Family Variety Show

If you've ever been to Pigeon Forge or Branson, or caught a show on a popular cruise line, you know how entertaining professional productions can be. But now you don't have to book an

a smash hit, drawing an audience totaling more than 16,000, its producers have raised the bar with an all-new, sidesplitting show for 2014, dubbed "The Original Amish Country Theater Variety Show," packed with live bluegrass music, ventriloquists, hilarious actors, and comedian and rivaling any professional production you'll see between New York and Branson.

ABOUT THE SHOWS

Buggy Fever (Performed on Thursdays & Saturdays)

This live, family-friendly variety show "will have you laughing until you reach the parking lot." This original production is reminiscent of the popular TV show "Hee Haw," but updated to appeal to today's audiences, and sprinkled (respectfully) with

**BUGGY
FEVER**

Featuring music from recording artist and local celebrity **JOHN SCHMID.**

expensive flight, hotel, or cruise to enjoy the same quality performances that thrill audiences in America's top entertainment cities. They're right here in Ohio.

Although the Amish Country Theater's 2013 production was

Amish culture. The diverse and witty characters put on a show that appeals to grandparents, parents and kids—a remarkable feat given the high-sensory experiences audiences have come to expect.

*Christmas
In The Country*

SHOW DATES

Nov. 22 & 29, 2014
Dec. 6 & 13, 2014

TICKETS

Reserved Seating \$19.95

Hosting the performance is Ken Groves, a nationally recognized ventriloquist. A crowd favorite, Lynyrd, is a spotlight-stealing country bumpkin who is as unpredictable as an Ohio spring. And the Amish characters "The Jonas Brothers" use their quirky mannerisms to serve up hilarious one-liners about farm living. Combined with the rest of the cast and musicians, audiences enjoy a value-packed two-hour variety show.

Funny Side Up!

(Performed on Fridays)

You haven't laughed until you've experienced "Funny Side Up!"

Join internationally acclaimed ventriloquist Ken Groves and his crazy cast of characters, in a side-splitting variety show guaranteed to entertain! Ken Groves has made over 12 television appearances and has traveled world-wide entertaining packed audiences from Las Vegas, Europe, to Japan, and everywhere in between.

This family-friendly variety show will have you laughing from start to finish as you hear from Howard, who rarely leaves the retirement home, George, a boxing champion, and G.W. whose wit is the only thing faster than his mouth. After you're laughed until it hurts with Ken's cast of misfits,

The music will take you on a journey from the origination of *CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS* to the music that we love and enjoy today.

you'll experience an ending to the show that will have you laughing the entire way home – and then some! This rib-ticklin' variety show also features the same hilarious comedians from Buggy Fever. Did someone say musicians?

Saltcreek Bluegrass

Although most families can't agree about which radio station to listen to as they're tooling down the road, every generation gets its toes tappin' to the finger-pickin' three-part harmonies of Saltcreek Bluegrass, Amish Country Theater's renowned house band. Featured throughout the show, the band continually impresses audiences with a performance that could easily stand alone as its own bluegrass concert. Songs like "Pistol Packin' Mama," "Gloom, Despair" and "Rocky Top" will have you whistling in the car on your drive home.

A State-of-the-Art Theater

The Disney-like venue that's home to this hilarious production is a 325-seat theater designed to trigger your imagination by creating the illusion of stepping into an authentic Amish barn – except this barn

features state-of-the-art sound, lighting, and effects. As a result, audiences experience the production at the highest level. The climate-controlled theater features comfortable movie-theater-style seating and easily accommodates wheelchairs and scooters.

Peckish patrons can even purchase homemade treats and desserts at the "Barnyard Fixin's" stand just outside the theater adjacent to the box office.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

Amish Country Theater's 2014 production *Christmas In The Country* begins November 22. Tickets (\$19.95) may be purchased by calling the box office at 888-988-7469 or by visiting AmishCountryTheater.com/Christmas. The website also features an up-to-date schedule and matinee show time availability. •

The Amish Country Theater is located at 3149 Ohio 39 in Walnut Creek. For directions, ticket information, showtimes and more, visit AmishCountryTheater.com or call 888-988-7469.

The Original AMISH COUNTRY THEATER Variety show



WHAT

Christmas In The Country

WHERE

The Amish Country Theater
3149 Ohio 39, in Walnut Creek

WHEN

Nov. 22 – 2pm
Nov. 29 – 3pm & 7pm
Dec. 6 – 3pm & 7pm
Dec. 13 – 3pm & 7pm

Tickets: Reserved Seating \$19.95

MORE INFO

Visit AmishCountryTheater.com for more information, including matinee availability

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PUPPIES Available

Sundays Fun days!

So you've decided to make a trip to Amish Country. You're here, and it's Sunday. Now, what do you do? **By Ann Swiderman**

Well, it is true that many businesses are closed on Sundays, but there is still plenty to do. In fact, Sunday may be the best day of the week to visit or extend your overnight stay. With a little planning and the help of OACountry.com, you can make the most of your visit and that includes visiting Amish Country on Sunday.

Why closed on Sunday?

With the help of Paul J. Miller, executive director of The Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center in Berlin, many answers to why Amish and Mennonite businesses are closed on Sunday are explained. Miller and his knowledgeable staff at the center deal with many questions about the Amish community. If you've got a question or don't understand as much as you'd like about the Plain People who don coverings and still drive a horse and buggy, The Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center is a definite destination.

With an estimated population of 36,000-38,000 Amish residents in Holmes, Wayne, Tuscarawas, Coshocton and even Ashland counties, the culture is diverse. One question Miller is always asked is "Why are Amish businesses closed on Sundays?" In a world that operates 24/7, locking the doors to potential customers on Sundays makes many visitors scratch their heads.

However, the decision to close on Sundays and not to perform labor goes back centuries to the core beliefs of the culture.

"The Amish believe the Bible speaks to them and is meant to be a guide for everyday living," explained Miller. "So, when the fourth commandment reminds us to Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy, and further says the Lord God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in it in six days, and then rested on the seventh day (Exodus 20:8), the only faithful response can be, how can we keep it holy?"

"For the Amish, that means worship, reading the scriptures, prayer, reading other inspirational, wholesome materials—and rest."

Furthermore, the Amish do not pursue the goal-oriented, gainful employment or wealth production of daily life. In their view, to keep their Amish businesses open to produce profit and revenue, even

if in a public service, does not honor God or keep the Sabbath holy."

While daily chores such as caring for animals still need done on Sundays, work is kept to a minimum.

The Mennonite businesses also close on Sundays for the same reasons.

Amish business owners do not fear the loss of revenue on Sunday. Actually, they put their faith in God. "They believe that God will provide all that one needs if they honor God's commands for balanced, wholesome living. Any revenue lost by being closed on Sunday probably would not be essential for survival," noted Miller.

What is there to do on Sunday?

Soak up the serenity of the area and you will find a new appreciation of Ohio's Amish Country. While there are numerous churches to attend, Sunday is the perfect time for a quiet drive through the countryside or along the Scenic Byways that intertwine the area. Have you ever seen a foal grazing in the green fields beside its mother, noticed the cornfields swaying in the wind or smelled the scent of blossoming lilacs? It is all waiting for you. But be respectful and don't intrude on the local Amish. Remember, Sundays are a holy day. Let's allow them to worship and observe the day of rest.

If a country drive is not what you're looking for, other options are plentiful.

Nearby museums are open, such as the world-famous carving home, Warther Museum, and the National Football Hall of Fame, both of which are a short drive away. Historic Roscoe Village is brewing with activity as it takes guests back in time to the late 1700s. If you're looking for some activity, the Holmes County Rails to Trails are open, as well as the Ohio-Erie Canalway paths. In Mohican Country, thrill seekers will be in love with the newly opened zipline that provides some high-flying adventure. Canoeing and water sports are also waiting to be discovered.

While Ohio's Amish Country is known for its one-of-a-kind experiences that revolve around the Amish way of life, there is so much more waiting to be discovered. So on your next visit make sure to plan on staying an extra day—on Sunday. Now you know what you've been missing on Sunday.

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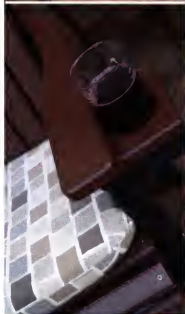
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The

TROYER'S

Experience

Stock up on the fresh foods from Amish Country at Troyer's Country Market

Laura Briedis

Over the past decade, farmers' markets have been popping up all over the country, including big cities where urban dwellers, too, want to be a part of the farm-to-table experience. But nowhere is that experience more real than in Ohio's Amish Country, where farmers grow produce and make food only steps from where it's sold.

Located along Route 39 in the heart of Amish Country, Troyer's Country Market is one of the best in the region, offering a taste of the finest foods that include everything from bins of fresh, in-season produce to locally produced meats and cheeses, a line of jams and jellies, freshly made premium ice creams and bulk packaged pantry staples.

"This is a perfect place to stock up on groceries, whether fresh strawberries, lettuce and potatoes, or our award-winning Swiss cheese and trail bologna," said Johnny Miller, store manager. "Our produce is grown by local farmers during the season, but we also offer a terrific selection year-round."

While the local farmers share their harvests at Troyer's Country Market, many visitors

While the local farmers share their harvests at Troyer's Country Market, many visitors also are attracted to the store for the cheese and deli meats the Amish are known for.

also are attracted to the store for the cheese and deli meats the Amish are known for.

"We have hundreds of varieties of cheeses and many are unique," said Miller. "We have our own recipe for jalapeno Muenster cheese, Colby-Swiss swirl cheese, blueberry cheddar cheese and mango fire cheddar that you will not find anywhere else."

The deli meats are not only delicious but are healthy, too, as they all are gluten-free and have no added MSG. You can also find sodium-free, soy-free and dairy-free options.

In addition to the popular trail bologna, pit smoke summer sausage and beef jerky in the Troyer's deli, there is also a line of homemade jams and jellies, including the wildly popular F.R.O.G. Jam that blends figs, raspberries, orange peel and ginger for a delicious spread.

There is a bulk honey tank in the store, so you can fill up your own jar with the locally harvested liquid gold, and there are three peanut butter machines that prompt you to put in nuts, turn on the switch, and then make

your own jar of peanut butter in three varieties: regular, honey roasted or almond butter.

Troyer's also has a line of Amish wedding foods that are produced in nearby Millersburg.

"What we make is not just food for special occasions," commented Miller. "We like to say that our food makes any occasion special." The colorful tiered display of Amish wedding foods at the market is an attraction for many who remember Mason jars lined up in their mom's fruit cellars.

"We are known for our pickled baby beets and bread and butter pickles," stated Miller. "We have hundreds of Amish wedding foods items packaged in eight-ounce to 32-ounce jars so you can bring home BBQ sauces, pie fillings, salsas and more."

More than just grocery shopping, Troyer's Country Market is a destination where you can stock up on homemade foods but also linger and enjoy the rural setting. The rocking chairs lined up outside invite you to relax and enjoy some creamy, rich, homemade ice cream made daily in 15 varieties.

With a big red roof that's easy to spot while driving through Amish Country, Troyer's Country Market is open Monday through Saturday. For those who cannot come to the store, there is an online shop where you can browse hundreds of items, have them shipped to your home, and still enjoy the farm-to-table movement. •

Troyer's Country Market is located at 5201 CR 77 in Millersburg. Store hours are Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday until 8 p.m.; closed on Sunday. For more information, visit www.Troyer-sCountryMarket.com, or call 330-893-3786.

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An old-fashioned winter

With all of the high-tech things for kids to do these days, we can still connect to them through winters past and days gone by

When the cold winds of winter begin to blow. When the anticipation of Christmas becomes the letdown of Christmas past. When days are short and nights become incredibly dark and long. When children are house-bound and bored with their techni-toys. That's when Mom and Dad (or Grandma and Grandpa) can step in and provide some new experiences with an old-fashioned twist.

Life for 21st Century children has become so fixed on small screens... television, computers, gameboys and the like... taking a break once in a while and stepping into the past can be a real learning experience, as well as a time of bonding for a family.

In my younger days, a Currier and Ives print hanging in our hallway portrayed the ideal old-fashioned winter. It depicted a Victorian couple, bundled warmly against the cold, enjoying a ride across the snowy landscape in a horse-drawn sleigh. It's slightly amusing to realize that our grandchildren can now consider our growing up winters as old-fashioned!

With no television to watch, and no video games to play, we did the next best thing for our entertainment: played games with our siblings and parents, read books, and spent a lot of time outdoors, playing in the snow. Since there were no TV weather persons to warn us about wind chill, we often stayed out much longer than we should have, seemingly without many ill effects. It may be my small child's perception that there was more and deeper snow back then than now. There was actually enough to build forts, which always preceded a good snowball fight, or tunnels to crawl through.

With no major highways and not many places to go for entertainment anyway, there was not a lot of traffic through our town. Our perfectly flat, western Ohio streets, unsalted and unscrapped, treated us to hours of sledding. For Sugarcreek children, that pastime was much more thrilling. Living in the hills presents some great advantages. It's difficult to imagine in this day and age that a village's main street would be closed to traffic so the kids could sled from the top of the hill, down through the business section and across a bridge at the other edge of the town. What fun!

Speaking of family bonding, many were

the mornings when we children would race down the stairs to escape the cold and warm our backsides at the coal stove in the living room. We also experienced the joy of sharing the task of carrying out the ashes. My childhood memories include the smell of freshly popped popcorn and hot cocoa that awaited us upon our arrival from school, and clean, frozen laundry defrosting on the coal stove.



Shelves full of the past line the walls of Lehman's in Kidron, where you can find fun games as well as gadgets.

Things weren't perfect in the "good old days", but some good practices are worth keeping. It was actually a trip through Lehman's in Kidron that made me consider some of the "good" things we have lost as we progressed through the past century. Since Lehman's serves those in the world who do without modern conveniences that we all enjoy, the shelves are stocked with items most of us do not use anymore, but speak to a time many of us look to with a certain wistfulness. No glamour, no glitz, no bells and whistles (perhaps there are bells and whistles), just good, old-fashioned products that produce good, old-fashioned results.

Lehman's Racer, a wooden sled with metal runners, and toboggans long enough to carry several people down a hill harken back

to those winters I remember. Grandparents concerned that their grandchildren spend too much time watching TV or playing video games look for games and toys that foster creativity and support interaction within the family. They (and parents) can find classic games (checkers and chess) and time-tested board and card games. Looms for learning to weave or make pot holders and kits for needlepoint, crocheting, knitting and cross stitch appeal to the creative side of children and teach skills along the way.

An old standby, jigsaw puzzles, can keep a family busy for an entire winter. Today's puzzles come in all shapes and sizes. Some are even designed to involve the entire family, with pieces within the puzzle ranging from large for smaller children and smaller for adults.


A wall full of cookie cutters and other baking utensils reminded me of the hours we spent with our mother in the kitchen, baking cookies and making candy. Gingerbread houses now come in kits for easy assembly by children with a parent's help. Do children today know that the best popcorn does not come in a microwave bag, but from a pan or a Whirley Pop corn popper?

The real appeal of Amish country is not its shops, but its people. We are drawn to the simplicity of their lifestyle, to their values and their strong commitment to family and community. We look to a way of life that no longer exists in the fast-moving, fast-forward world we live in, where innovation and obsolescence go hand in hand.

Winter is a great time for rebuilding and restoring some of the family experiences we may not be able to fit into busy schedules the rest of the year. Time spent with family and friends around a dining room table or in front of a fireplace; working together in the kitchen preparing food; playing games or completing puzzles; sledding down a snowy hill... or telling stories from the past... all make memories for the future.

And if you really want to experience a Currier and Ives moment, take the family to Guggisburg Swiss Inn in Charm for a winter sleigh ride.

In Amish country, an old-fashioned winter is about life... plain and simple. •



It's difficult to imagine in this day and age that a village's main street would be closed to traffic so the kids could sled from the top of the hill, down through the business section and across a bridge at the other edge of the town.

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Fortunately for Ohioans, these two products are meticulously created and readily available at several local merchants throughout Amish Country. Stop by at any of the following businesses and bring home the exquisite taste of life and nature that dates back thousands of years, but remains alive today in Amish Country.

Breitenbach Wine Cellars

Nestled among the rolling, picturesque hills of Ohio's Amish Country is a very special place known as Der Marktplatz. Exclusive producer of an extensive array of award-winning grapes, fresh fruit, and berry wines, Breitenbach Wine Cellar is a proud member of the Ohio Wine Producers. Wines are made on site and visitors are invited to enjoy an actual winery tour. Breitenbach's Dandelion Festival is one of the best family festivals in Ohio, celebrating family, food, fun and wine. The festival is held the first Saturday of May each year.

Broad Run Cheesehouse & Swiss Heritage Winery

A marriage of wine and cheese, Broad Run Cheesehouse and Swiss Heritage Winery offers the best of both worlds. The production of wine and cheese utilizes many similar techniques, such as preparation, patience and pride. Broad Run Cheese, originally established in 1933 by local farmers in an attempt to get more money for their milk, has far exceeded their initial expectations. Winner of the 2010 Ohio Grand Champion Cheesemaker Award, Broad Run offers more than 30 varieties of cheese, as well as the wonderful Swiss Heritage wines made on the premises in their own wine cellars.

French Ridge Vineyards

Relax at the secluded French Ridge Vineyards winery as it overlooks the vineyards and the rolling hills of Holmes County. With tastings and tours available, French Ridge also features Vineyard View Cabins, which are within walking distance of the winery, located in Killbuck, Ohio.

Guggisberg Cheese

This company's claim to fame is winning first place for their Swiss cheese at the World Dairy Expo Championship Dairy Products contest and 'Home of the Original Baby Swiss' and the 2009 Ohio Swiss Cheese Association's Grand Champion Cheesemaker Award. Guggisberg offers more than 40 varieties of cheese, so you'll be sure to find several favorites. You're also invited to watch the cheese making process. Enjoy the unique cuckoo clocks, wonderful Swiss chocolates and other gift specialties.

Heini's Cheese Chalet/Heini's Gourmet Market

With free samples of more than 50 varieties of cheese, Heini's is the place to take the leap and try a new flavor. Other great treats to try include homemade Amish fudge and candies, hand-dipped ice cream, smoked meats, homemade jellies and bulk foods. Perfect gift ideas abound, such as heritage lace, Amish souvenirs and fine ladies apparel. Cheese making tours are also offered. Heini's sells wholesale and ships anywhere in the U.S. Plenty of free packing is available, so stop by any time. At the gourmet market in Sugarcreek, wine-tasting is available for visitors to sample some of the best wines made in Amish Country and throughout Ohio.



Guggisberg Cheese



Swiss Heritage Winery



Heini's Cheese Chalet

Wineries have become a more viable part of what Amish Country brings to the table, with a nice variety of local wines available.

The strong allure of wine & cheese

Both were born in ancient times, with wine dating back 10,000 years and cheese 4,000 years. They both share the likeness of fermentation and both maintain the style in which they are produced. Both are also considered living products and continue to change and improve as they age.



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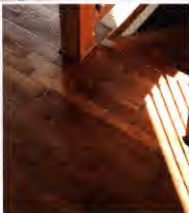
Installation Available!

When John Miller Jr. began crafting custom hardwood flooring, it wasn't like he didn't know wood.

Miller, who lives and plies his trade just outside the eastern Holmes County Village of Mount Hope, already had years of experience in the specialty wood products business. His millwork company, Mount Hope Planing, creates custom moldings, stair parts, wainscoting and other wood trim and has been since 1999.

So when "JR" made the decision to start a new hardwood flooring division in 2008, there wasn't a steep learning curve for him. It's a crowded market segment dominated by big players, but today, as word spreads, MHP Flooring is busily carving out a niche in the custom hardwood flooring market. Every floor, one at a time

Perhaps the thing that sets MHP Floors apart from the "big box" choices available to consumers is that Miller's products are not manufactured in a one-size-fits-all fashion. Like many Amish-owned businesses, MHP Flooring offers customers a "hands-on" buying experience. "This isn't like going to Home Depot or Lowe's," Miller said. "We build every floor one at a time based on the customer's wood and stain choices." He added, "We also build every floor to 3/4" inch thickness," explaining that much of the manufactured flooring on the market today is only 1/2" inch thick.



Visitors to Miller's bustling shop won't find a huge warehouse with pre-milled, prepackaged, ready-to-install choices lining the shelves. Instead, they might be surprised to see real wood, waiting to be transformed into beautiful flooring. "We've got sample flooring sections on display to show our work and plenty of pictures," Miller said but other than that, "It's a process of sitting down with every customer to find out what they're looking for."

The customization doesn't necessarily end, though, with just wood and stain. One of the truly unique features available at MHP Floors is specialty finishes, including "hand-scraped" and "saw-cut" choices that create today's much-sought-after distressed looks. Today's consumers are very interested in making new floors look old or rustic and Miller says "A large number of the jobs we're doing have some type of distressing," adding that his customers can choose any level of distressing based on their own personal tastes. Customers also can vary the length and width of the flooring pieces to create a time-worn look.

It's an impressive style, and one which consumers have given a big "thumbs up." In 2012 MHP Floors went public, so to speak, with displays at the regional Cleveland, Columbus and Pittsburgh home and garden shows. His products were the centerpiece of a furniture and cabinetry display featuring Amish craftsmanship throughout the area, and were a true hit.

"We had done some smaller shows in the past, but this was the first time that large crowds had a chance to see our work," Miller said, "Sometimes you wonder if you have the right style or how people will respond to what you are offering." If the reaction at the show is any indication, MHP Floors is definitely on the right track.

You can view many new floor installations of MHP Floors, and see color and distressing samples on the new website at www.craftedinoio.com/mhp. MHP Floors is located at 7598 TR 652 two miles from Mt. Hope. Phone 330.359.0538

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Ohio's Amish Country has quickly become well-known for its beautiful, heirloom-quality hardwood furniture in addition to its rolling hills and farmlands.

Just a few decades ago, if you mentioned livelihood in the rolling hills of Amish Country, bathed in sunlight and pastures, most anyone's thoughts would have turned immediately to farming.

Why not?

Farming has been the absolute staple of Amish Country in Ohio for quite some time, so it would seem appropriate to think farming when it comes to the market which drives the area's economy.

However, times have

changed over the years, and farming has fallen on tougher times, especially over the past two decades.

Farming was and still is a tough, demanding job. It is long hours, with sometimes questionable yields for farmers who are far too often at the mercy of the weather. Droughts and downpours can wreak havoc on a farmer's crops.

As Amish and Mennonite farmers began to realize that it was becoming harder to earn a living farming, the attention of

the community turned toward finding more profitable solutions.

Rather than turning soil

a living could remain on the farm, building businesses and incorporating their offspring into the fam-

A huge benefit of the industry is that farmers, who opted to turn to woodworking as a way of making a living, could remain on the farm.

for a living, many Amish farmers instead turned toward a new career... in wood.

Over a relatively short time period, Amish handcrafted furniture became synonymous with Holmes County.

Furniture business became a booming industry in the heartland of Ohio's Amish Country. All over the countryside, the wood-making industry was driven by Amish families who had formerly called farming their livelihood.

A huge benefit of the industry is that farmers who opted to turn to woodworking as a way of making

ily business.

The beauty and elegance of those products would become known as second to none.

Today in Amish Country, the furniture industry has moved right to the forefront in terms of importance to the economic growth of the county. Wood is now the king of the crop in Amish Country, and finding quality pieces is not a difficult chore.

What proves to be the toughest is choosing between the numerous quality stores offering handmade, handcrafted Amish items.

Jake's Handcrafted Oak



See a sneak peek of samples from most of these fine



From north to south, east to west, there is no shortage of divine, quality furniture and collectibles.

For a taste of real Amish authenticity, **Jake's Handcrafted Oak**, just north of Holmesville, is a perfect stop. The smell of the kerosene lamps adds to the beauty of the handcrafted furniture throughout the shop.

Down the road in Mt. Hope is **Homestead Furniture**, where if you can't find what you're looking for, they can make it happen. Three huge floors of the finest quality merchandise available, along with the capabilities of matching stains to any piece of furniture, make Homestead a must-see.

Just off the highway in the newly built store, **Pleasant View Furniture** creates a resplendent

bedroom suite in a snap. The store specializes in creating cherry and oak bedroom furniture, and can help create a perfect sanctuary for your bedroom. Bedroom sets, dining room tables and chairs, entertainment centers and living room furniture fill the **Schrock's Heritage Furniture** showroom. See what makes kiln-dried hardwoods stand out, as furniture styles and a variety of stained and painted finishes enhance the inventory.

Just down the road on Old Route 39 is **Weavers Furniture of Sugarcreek**. This 14,000 sq. ft. showroom is stocked full of furniture made by national and local manufacturers. A furniture oasis, it also has accessories for every home decor, which is the perfect complement to any piece of furniture.

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Above, left to right: Pleasant View Furniture, Jake's Handcrafted Oak, Weavers Furniture, Holmes Heritage Furniture, Alpine Cabinets, Swiss Valley Furniture, Homestead Furniture and Schrock's Heritage Furniture.

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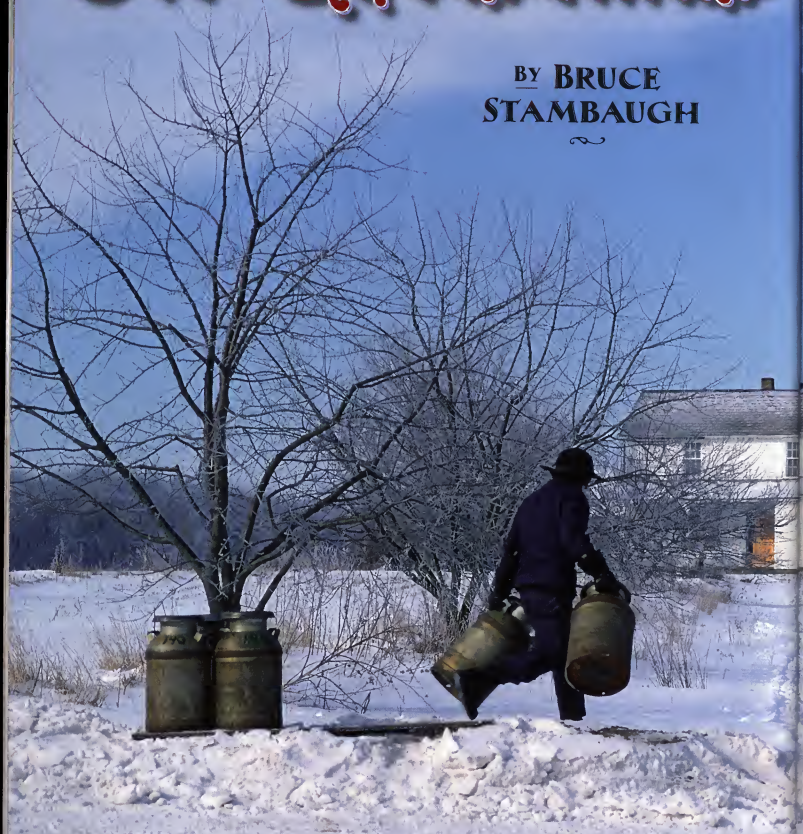


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Old Christmas

BY BRUCE
STAMBAUGH



Celebrating the holidays Amish-style

The Amish enjoy celebrating the holidays just as much as anyone else. They simply go about it a bit differently.

Defining how the Amish celebrate America's most time-honored holidays deserves an introductory explanation. The Amish are divided into church groups, usually about 100 persons per church. And by church, they mean fellowship, since they hold church in their homes, shops or barns.

There are actually many different types or orders of Amish. The Swartzentruber Amish are considered to be the lowest order, with the New Order Amish the highest, since they hold Sunday school on the alternate worship Sundays.

Using the terms "lowest" and "highest" is not intended to be derogatory or even hierarchical. It simply is the way it is with

the Amish. Those in-between are the Old Order, by far the most numerous among the Amish population. The orders are simply determined by rules of the church leaders.

Clearly, defining the Amish is a lot harder than their simple lifestyles might let on. Nevertheless, they all celebrate the holidays one way or another.

You can't generalize about the Amish. Their holiday traditions and rituals vary from family to family, church to church and sect to sect, not much different that any other culture or ethnic group.

Modesty is a major principle in the values of the Amish. That fact can be seen in exactly how the Amish keep the holidays. In living out their faith beliefs, they do so joyously surrounded by food, family and friends.

Here then is an overview of how any given Amish family, save those in the Swartzentruber order, might celebrate the holidays.

Thanksgiving

Most Amish take a *Advantage of this* national holiday just the way the rest of the country would. They gather with family, extended family and friends and enjoy turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, a vegetable and, of course, dessert, usually homemade pie.

However, instead of breakfast, many of the Amish fast prior to the large noon meal. Fasting is a physical sign of purification in preparation for the celebration.

The lower order Amish, however, have a different take on Thanksgiving. They see it as an opportunity to prepare for the winter months ahead. For them, Thanksgiving is the big hog-butchering day. They'll save their substantial meal for another time.

Christmas

From the Amish perspective, anyone not Amish is considered "English." The Amish

continued on page 52

**MOST AMISH TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS NATIONAL HOLIDAY
JUST THE WAY THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WOULD, GATHERING
WITH FAMILY FOR A MEAL.**



CHRISTMAS from page 51

recognize and respect the "English" demarcation of Christmas on Dec. 25. For them, Christmas is a sacred day in honor of the birth of God's only son, Jesus Christ. And here again, many, though not all, will fast prior to their family gathering.

Amish actually celebrate Christmas twice, once on the standard date of Dec. 25, and again on Jan. 6, commonly referred to as Old Christmas. In higher religions, that day is known as Epiphany.

Unlike the rest of society that celebrates Christmas, the Amish do not have Christmas trees or decorations. They will, however, burn Christmas candles in honor of the day.

After the usual Christmas meal of turkey or ham and all the trimmings, the Amish will spend the afternoon and evening playing table games, board games and cards. None of the card games will involve using face cards.

Of course, it wouldn't be Christmas without gifts and the Amish carry out this tradition of gift giving as well. The gifts will be wrapped, but usually nothing elaborate. Children will receive toys.

Since not all of Amish Country is Amish, the usual holiday decorations and

where mostly Amish live, has a Christmas parade and a live nativity scene. Santa, however, is nowhere to be found.

Old Christmas

Old Christmas harkens back to the change from the Julian calendar to the

Gregorian calendar during the latter stages of the Reformation when Pope Gregory XIII switched Christmas to Dec. 25. Out of tradition and reverence for their forefathers, the Amish have continued to honor Christ's birth on Jan. 6.

Unlike the more jovial Dec. 25 celebrations, Old Christmas is more solemn. It begins with fasting, followed by another typical Christmas meal

and some more gift giving. However, the emphasis is on reflecting and visiting as opposed to reveling.

No matter which holiday is being celebrated, family is always an important element in any get-together for the Amish. And that is true for any Amish order.

AMISH ACTUALLY CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS TWICE, ONCE ON THE STANDARD DATE OF DEC. 25, AND AGAIN ON JAN. 6, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS OLD CHRISTMAS. IN HIGHER RELIGIONS, THAT DAY IS KNOWN AS EPIPHANY.



which occur like in the rest of Amish Country. Mt. Hope, the Holmes County seat, kicks off the holiday season with Christmas in the Village, which is set for Saturday, November 15.

As the hub of Amish Country, has a ceremony. Even little Mt. Hope,



SHOP AWAY

Bring extra bags and get ready to shop 'til you drop. From artwork to dogs, quilts to playhouses, sporting goods to tack, there is something for everyone in Ohio's Amish Country, so start searching for the shop you will visit first.

Shopping in Ohio's Amish Country is a one-of-a-kind experience and no trip to this rural paradise is complete without browsing through some of the shops that dot the area countryside. You're sure to find quality merchandise and friendly faces wherever you may go!

For your ever-increasing belongings, **Alpine Structures** can provide Amish-built storage solutions, either pre-built or built on your location.

At **Ashery Country Store** in Fredericksburg, discover a wealth of bulk foods including more than a dozen varieties of popcorn and a range of seasonings, as well as the more conventional baking supplies, jams and jellies, candy and spices, among other fine ingredients. Cecil and Freda Yoder started the business in a neighbor's basement in the late 1960s.

Walk through the doors of Audrey's Attic and look through shelves and trunks of

curiosities and antiques in this Orrville shop. Unlike most attics, Audrey's Attic is graced with scents of cinnamon, vanilla and mulberry. It is, in fact, not an attic — but a country store. The shop features primitives, folk-art, pottery, candles and seasonal items.

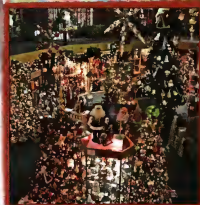
The newly renovated **Berlin Village Gift Barn and Country Gatherings** is an oasis of decorating style waiting to be discovered. A variety of home decor is available, along with trained professional interior designers who can assist shoppers in making the right choice for their home.

Still in Berlin, **Primitive Porch** offers locally made furniture and decorative items for the primitive home. Just down the street, **Tis the Season**, the largest year-round Christmas shop in Ohio, dazzles with its many rooms full of tree decorations and lights in every style you can imagine.

continued on page 54



Berlin Village Gift Barn



Tis The Season



Erb's Stove

Shop without the stress

Leave the hustle and bustle of big city malls behind. In Amish Country there are no mega malls, just local shops offering some of the finest merchandise found anywhere.



Valley ATV

If the shoe fits, you'll find it at **Charm Harness & Boot**. With a large selection of footwear, ranging from western to work to casual, this Charm shop has it all. And, of course, true to its name, the shop carries saddles and horse tack.

Nothing beats a roaring fire, and nowhere will you find more elegant and exquisite fireplace mantels and fronts than at **Erbs Stove Center** outside of Berlin, where you can have an oak, cherry or birch mantel custom-made to create the perfect look for your living room or den.

If you like Christian books and media, the **Gospel Book Store** in Berlin is for you. No big box store mentality here, just knowledgeable associates who are ready to talk with you and help you find the Christian inspiration you're looking for in books, music and more.

Gramma Fannie's Quilt Barn is stocked full of everything a quilter needs. From fabrics to stencils to quilting books, locally made products will satisfy the even the most choosy shopper.

The old-fashioned country store is open for business with general merchandise, including farm and home supplies and even stainless steel kitchenware. At **Hershberger Country Store**, in Baltic, the hard-to-find items from days past line the shelves.

The 50,000 feet of the **Holmes County Flea Market** offer a cornucopia of every kind of brand new bargain item from dozens of merchants under one roof.

Homespun Treasures is a definite treasure chest waiting to be opened, with items that can make any house a home. Found between Walnut Creek and Berlin, a variety of items will greet shoppers as they approach the store.

Outside of Berlin, **Kauffman's Lawn Furniture** has everything you could possibly want, including



Time Travel

Lehman's in Kidron will send you back to an era before electricity, but don't let that fool you. They offer a variety of practical gadgets that never go out of style, as well as many modern items that you'll be sure to enjoy.

pressure-treated poplar, cedar and cypress products. Gazebos, play sets, log cabins and Victorian playhouses, hot tub enclosures, arbors, picnic tables, lighthouses, chairs, swings and more are included in the numerous choices.

A trip to **Lehman's** in Kidron and Mt. Hope is an adventure back in time. Bridging the past with the present while preserving inventions from long ago, the store offers items most believed had long gone out of style, such as old-time hardware items, oil lamps, farm bells, water pumps, pottery, weather vanes and much more.

Amish-made handcrafted quilts, wall hangings, quillows, placemats and items to complete your baby cribs fill **Lone Star Quilts**. This custom quilt shop in Mt. Hope has over 3,000 bolts of beautiful fabric for shoppers to choose.

What began as Holmes County's first quilt shop in 1965, **Miller's Dry Goods** currently houses more than 5,000 bolts of quilting fabric, as well as finished quilts. Custom quilts are

also available in this Charm shop.

Great prices and vast inventory make this off the beaten path shop worth the drive. Quality leather goods, footwear, clothing and harnesses make this family-operated store, **Mt. Hope Harness and Shoe**, a gem in the Mt. Hope countryside.

Mt. Hope Planing is strong enough to stand for generations. Specializing in custom-built plank flooring, wainscoting and trim packages are available for remodeling or new construction.

Held annually on the first Saturday in August, the **Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale & Auction** has grown into quite an event since it began in 1966. It now includes activities for children and a 5K Run for Relief. The sale began as a way to aid Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in world relief and features art, collectibles, quilts, wood products and more.

The Pottery Niche, LLC, has some of the largest selections of Polish pottery in north-central Ohio. The Charm area shop has a complete line of kitchenware in a variety of colorful designs and patterns. By coordinating directly with European Polish pottery wholesalers, the merchandise at The Pottery Niche can't be found anywhere else in Amish Country.

The J.M. Smucker Company Store and Café is an ideal destination showcasing products and merchandise from The J.M. Smucker

Company's family of brands. In addition to fruit spreads, peanut butter, ice cream toppings, potatoes, pancakes, syrup and baking ingredients, you'll also find Smucker gifts and merchandise from kitchen accessories to apparel to toys.

Since recently relocating the business, from the East Tennessee mountains to Millersburg, Ohio, **Somewhere Sewing** customers have discovered a plethora of sewing choices. Offering over 7,500 bolts of fabric, patterns, sewing machines, quilt frames and more.

Sunny Slope Orchard's store-room in Navarre is open for business six days a week all year long. Stop in for each season's finest produce and make sure to check out the baked goods baked fresh each day along with the deli stocked with a large variety of meats and cheeses. Check out the famous applesauce, apple butter and barbecue sauce.

Swiss Country Lawn & Crafts offers a complete lineup of garden and lawn furniture, plus an amazing gift shop featuring home accents, pictures, candles and accessories, Boyd's Bears, wrought iron, pottery and more at its Sugarcreek location.

One of the best selections of recreational vehicles in Ohio, **Valley ATV** in Danville, is the local dealer for Polaris and Can-am sales and provides the best experience possible. They know the business—they've known it for years.

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Full Flurry of Winter

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Winter occasionally unleashes a good snow storm, and when it hits Amish Country, we like to think there are few places more beautiful.

Doyle Yoder photo

A classic case of hoops perfection

Classic in the Country XII continues celebration of unity, legacy of champions

By Dave Mast

Chocolate and peanut butter. Peas and carrots. Salt and pepper. Basketball and Amish Country?

While the first three are things that obviously go together hand-in-hand, one might not consider Amish Country and high school girls basketball a perfect match.

Yet, after 11 wonderful seasons, Classic in the Country, one of the premier high school girls basketball showcases in the nation, is gearing up for its 12th edition.

Classic in the Country was the brainchild of Tom Jenkins, director of Ohio Girls Basketball Review, and David Schlach, coach of the four-time State champion Hiland Lady Hawks.

Their dream was to create a venue for high school girls basketball that would showcase the immense basketball talent throughout Ohio, as well as providing an opportunity for basketball aficionados to unite under one roof for 20 contests featuring the very best teams and individual talent in the state.

This event is about making girls basketball feel special.

In addition, they wanted to create a drawing card to Amish Country during the winter season, normally a down time in Holmes County's tourism-driven economy.

But most of all, Jenkins wanted to bridge the division of black and white, and create a venue that celebrated the diversity of people, thus, the showcase was implemented on Martin Luther King Jr. weekend.

It is also in honor of Perry Reese Jr., the long time Hiland Hawks boys basketball coach who came in and won a State title in 1992, and also took the Hawks to four State tournaments.

Ready to Roll

The Classic features the best in girls high school basketball.

It also happens that Reese, who passed away in 2000, was black. When he moved into the Amish community of Berlin, he was not exactly the norm. However, through his work ethic, passion and love for the kids, he was able to break down racial barriers.



Raising Their Game

Under Armour has previously been a sponsor of Classic in the Country, but not to the extent that they have committed to for the future.

King is an icon with his steadfast work in the pursuit of racial equality, and before each game, segments of speeches he has made are played over the loudspeaker. His "I Have a Dream" speech is perhaps one of the most well known and quoted speeches anywhere.

Reese entered East Holmes as an outcast, only to see his amazing love for his players and willingness to accept people for who they were alter perspectives and change the hearts of many in East Holmes. Eventually, most people in the East Holmes School District simply called him Coach, and he parted this world as Holmes County's adopted son.

Jenkins himself has personally experienced the darker side of prejudice and hatred along racial lines, and he, too, has committed himself to knocking down the walls of hatred and bigotry.

The tournament that honors and celebrates the variety of life is different from most others. There are players from all over the state and the country, and harmony is a huge centerpiece for CitC.

"That's what makes this tournament special," said Will McKinney, head coach

of Columbus Afri-centric. "There are players from all walks of life. It's like a melting pot."

That melting pot atmosphere fosters camaraderie between players who may never see each other outside of this tournament. "It's fitting that the tournament is here," McKinney said. "My favorite thing about the area is the camaraderie."

While CitC was a hit from the very first tip-off, it has grown to major proportions throughout the past decade, gaining a national sponsor in Under Armour. It quickly became a boon for Holmes County, pumping upward of an estimated \$1.4 million annually into the local economy.

Considered one of the greatest high school basketball showcases in the nation, CitC has drawn raves nationwide. Then there is the food catered into the event, both for the patrons, players, coaches, media, referees and other dignitaries and sponsors. The homemade noodles and ice cream, Amish cooking and a whole host of tasty morsels make for some fine eating during the three-day event.

However, the real force behind the success of the CitC has been the people at the local level. Volunteers line up annually to help ensure that every time someone turns around they are greeted by a smiling face, a word of kindness and a helping hand.

CitC is a classy venue in which no detail is left uncovered, and some of those details are very delicious. The menu for fans includes homemade noodles and ice cream, as well as the popular Holmes County staple Trail bologna and Swiss cheese sandwich.

Visiting coaches, officials, and the hundreds of VIPs and college scouts on hand are fed two incredibly sumptuous meals each day provided in by Der Dutchman Restaurant.



Now at Ohio State

Kelsey Mitchell is just one of the talented players to have displayed her talents at the Classic in the Country Challenge in Berlin before moving on the Division I college basketball. Mitchell will play her freshman year for the Buckeyes in Columbus.

Local key sponsor Kaufman Realty and Auction provides revenue to generate the necessities of the tournament, along with a large number of other sponsors. Under Armour and Crocs supply players and coaches with all kinds of athletic gear and shoes, and the halftime and time-out entertainment crew does an amazing job of keeping things lively when basketball isn't taking place.

Jenkins and Schlachach have said over and over that it is the hospitality of the people of

Holmes County that has made the CitC such a huge success.

"We would never in a million years be able to pull this off if our entire community wasn't fully behind it," said Schlachach.

Classic in the Country is a weekend of basketball, food, inspiration and honor, which helps light up Amish Country's winter white landscape with color of all kinds.

For more information about Classic in the Country, see www.classicintheconomy.org.



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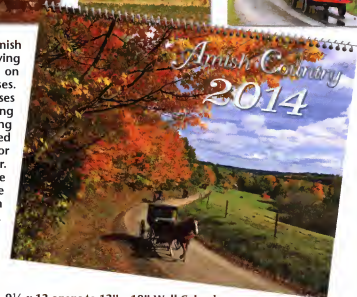


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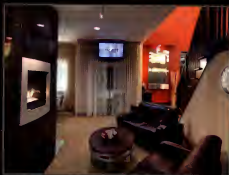
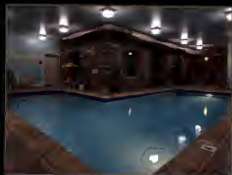
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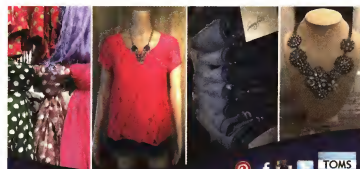
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123 O-7

45 C-14

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115 Andreas Dr.
www.beachyscountrychalet.com

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112 East Main St.
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\$129.99

FOLDING TABLE
48" L x 36" W
\$129.99

FOLDING TABLE
60" L x 36" W
\$129.99

CHAIR CART
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\$129.99

ADJUSTABLE FOLDING TABLE
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\$129.99

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72" L x 36" W x 28" H
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6 FT. FOLDING PICNIC TABLE
72" L x 36" W x 28" H
\$129.99

Legend

- Interstate
- U.S. Route
- State Route
- County Road
- Township Road
- Amish Country Scenic Byway
- Gateway to Amish Country Byway
- Wally Road Scenic Byway
- Lincoln Highway
- Canalway Ohio Scenic Byway
- Bike Trails
- One Mile

Ohio's first State Road was authorized in 1832 by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio. It began in Millersburg and ended 32 miles away in Port Washington, on the Ohio Canal. Today it consists of various County and Township Roads, many of which are unimproved.

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- 32 Dutch Valley Market.....R-9
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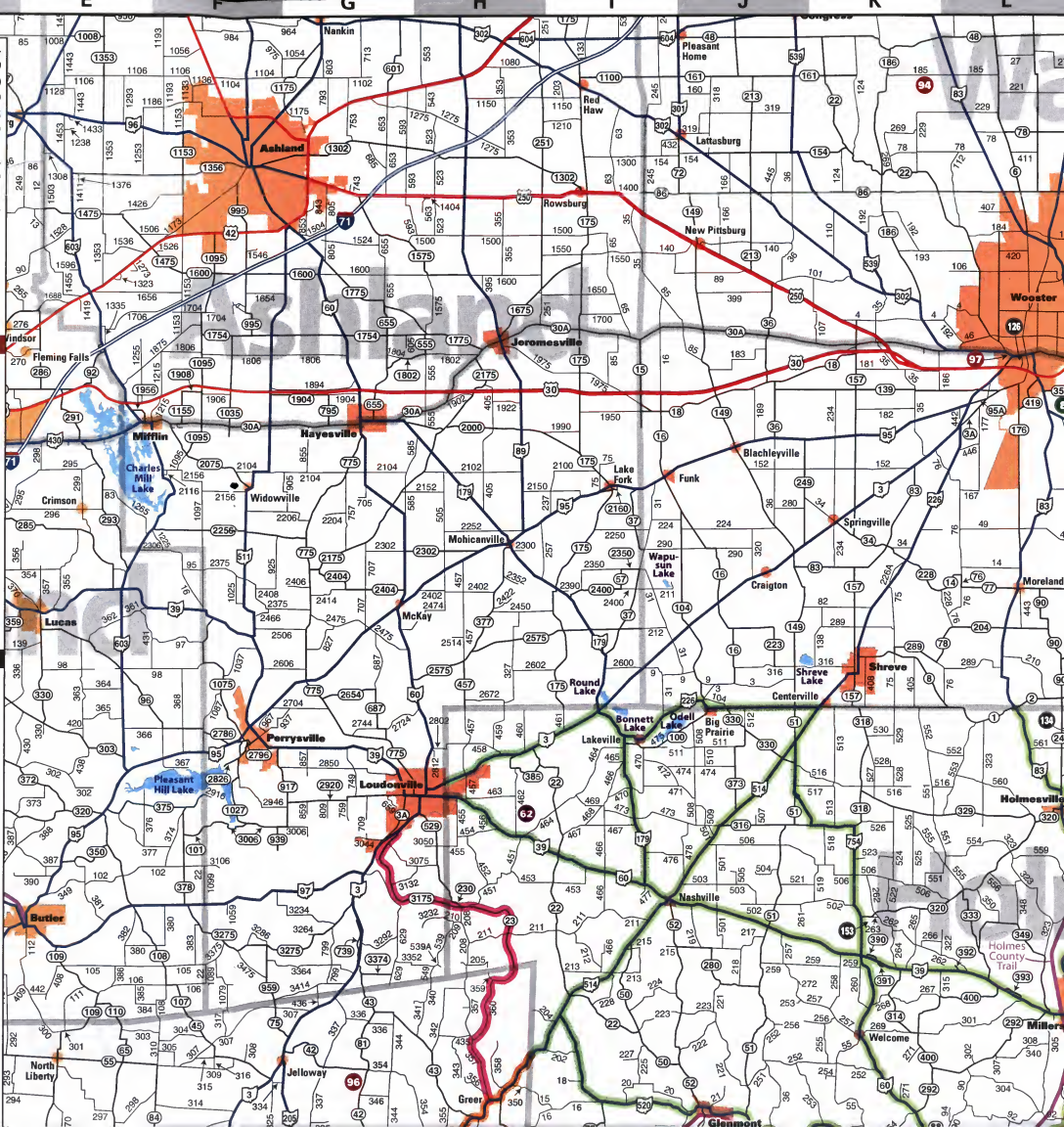
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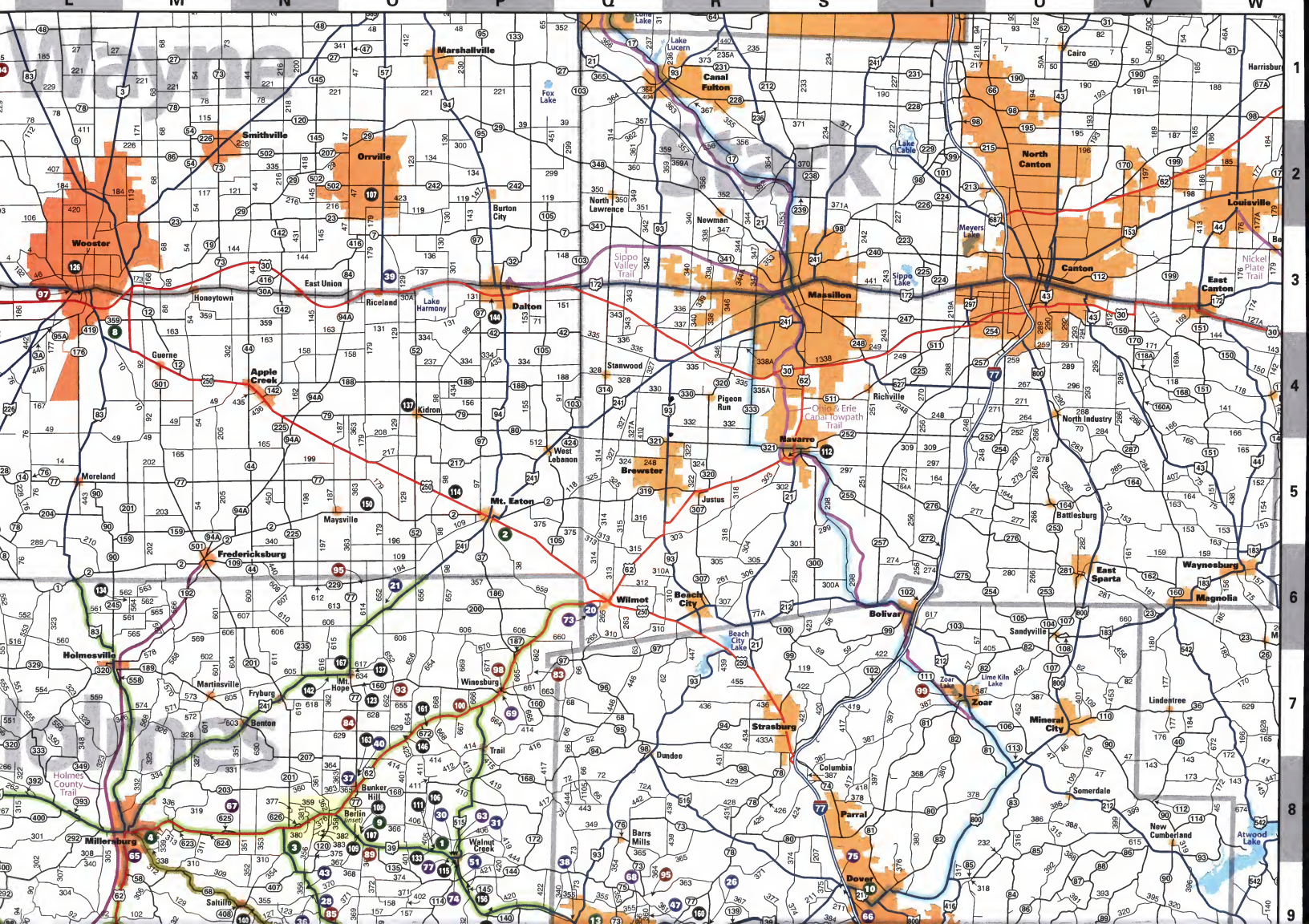
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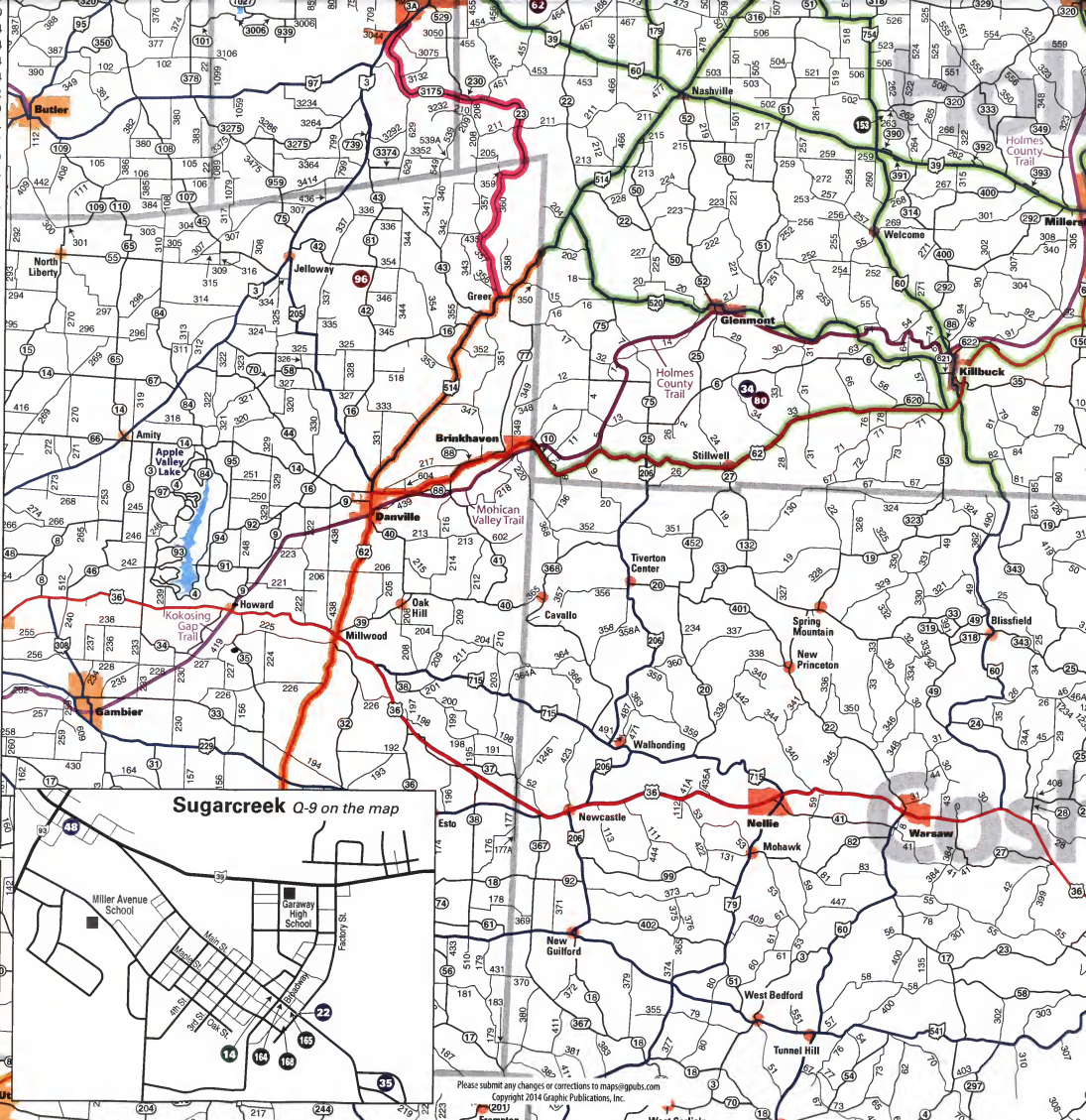
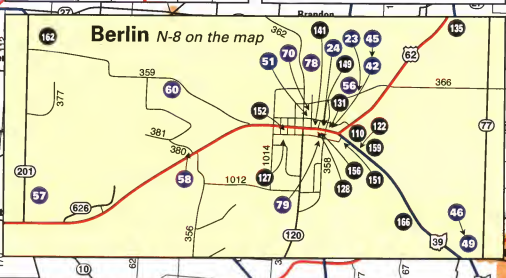




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